Preventing Zoonoses in Children

Children, especially those under 5 years-old, can get very sick if they get a zoonotic disease.

Follow these guidelines to keep children safe around animals.

Ways to Stay Safe: Keep it Clean!

- Wash hands often*
- Keep hands out of mouth
- Don’t kiss animals
- Avoid animals while eating

*Always wash with soap and hot water after touching animals or their habitats, and before eating or drinking.

Stay Away from High Risk Animals

Some animals are more likely to carry harmful germs that cause illness in people.

- Reptiles, amphibians, and rodents are not suitable pets for households with young children.
- Children under 5 years-old should not handle chicks, ducks, or poultry.

Talk to your veterinarian about zoonotic disease risks or visit www.cfsph.iastate.edu/zoonoses