

Displaying of Animals & Birds

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture **strongly recommends** that Connecticut farmers' markets do not sell or display any livestock or other animals or birds. .

Several infectious disease events have been attributed to animal-related pathogens associated with public settings (i.e. Rabies, *E. coli 0157*, *Campylobacter*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Salmonella*, *Coxiella burnetii*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Swine Influenza, Listeria and ringworm). Bites and other physical injuries related to animal handling and the consumption of raw products were also reported. Such incidents can have substantial public health, legal, and economic consequences for all parties involved.

If the decision is made to have livestock or other animals or birds on display at the farmer's market, Connecticut Department of Agriculture regulations for the [Control of Rabies in Public Settings](#) and any other state statute pertaining to the movement and sale requirements of that animal or bird must be met along with the applicable USDA, Animal Care requirements.

To reduce the likelihood of infectious disease being transmitted to those attending, especially children who are likely to come in contact with animals on display, the Department recommends that Farmers' Markets and any venue that allows contact with livestock follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV). The NASPHV Animals in Public Settings Compendium can be downloaded from their website at <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/AnimalContactCompendium2013.pdf>. NASPHV also has posters available for download here <http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendiumAnimals.html>.

On August 4, 2009, the Department of Agriculture adopted regulations for the “**Control of Rabies in Public Settings**”. The complete regulation can be found at [Control of Rabies in Public Settings](#).

The following summarizes the applicable Rabies regulations:

Animals for which there is a licensed Rabies vaccine

- **Horses, cattle, and sheep must be currently vaccinated against rabies** by a veterinarian unless they are under the minimum age to be vaccinated. (Dogs, cats and ferrets are also included in this category if displayed.)
- These animals must have a rabies vaccination certificate signed by the veterinarian administering the vaccine that includes the animal's identification and description, name and address of owner, name of the vaccine's manufacturer, serial number, date the vaccination was administered and date when it expires.
- If it is the animal's first vaccination, it must be given at least **30 days** prior to be considered current.

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Animals not having an approved Rabies vaccination

- Includes animals for which there is not a licensed rabies vaccine and animals for which there is a licensed rabies vaccine but are under the age to be vaccinated. (Most rabies vaccines are labeled to be administered when animals reach 3 mo. of age – young animals for exhibition should be vaccinated as soon as possible after 3 mo. of age.)
- Animals must be separated from the public by sufficient means to avoid direct contact between people and animals, such as a double fence, plexiglass, or other means or a conspicuous sign must be posted near the animal enclosure stating “CONNECTICUT RABIES ADVISORY NOTICE – DO NOT FEED OR TOUCH ANIMALS”.

Yellow tape with the advisory notice wording is available for purchase from the Department of Agriculture.

Please contact the Department at (860) 713-2504 if you have questions regarding the requirements contained in the rabies regulations or if you wish to obtain the advisory notice tape.

The following links are available on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s website: www.CTGrown.gov.

[Complete Rabies Manual](#)

[Regulations for the Control of Rabies in a Public Setting](#)

Further questions regarding the sales and/or displaying of animals and birds at farmers’ markets can be directed to:

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Inspection and Regulation
165 Capitol Avenue, G8A
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 713-2504
FAX: (860) 713-2515

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