

# Critter Visits



## Critter Connections Petting Zoo @ Woolley Wonderland Farm

**Only those with Closed toed shoes or boots can enter animal areas for safety reasons.**

All clients entering our animal areas must brush off the soles of their boots/shoes and walk through a shallow, disinfectant footbath. Hand washing with soap and water is also at this first station. You will use the hand-washing station right before exiting our animal areas.



**Your Critter Buddy guide** will meet you and escort you to our Critter Connections area. Do bring a camera. Please bring a baby-carrier rather than a stroller. There is no smoking on the property. Food or beverages are Not Permitted in the Critter area.

We ask that; blankets, stuffed animals, soothers, sippy cups, bottles and other children's items be left in your vehicle. Backpacks, Bags and Purses can also be safely left in your locked vehicle. Please dress for the weather. We operate rain or shine.

We are at the top of a hill, in the shade, so it may get breezy. There are mosquitoes. Apply bug repellent or sunscreen as you need. Please keep your group together at all times and stay with your guide. There may be other families in the large zoo zone.

Our protocols require **no wandering away from your group**. You are welcome to ask questions, and move with your guide during your hour.

We don't use sanitizer prior to touching animals as the chemicals are not kind to farm friends. You are permitted to enter the various farm friend zones **with your Critter Buddy guide OR watch from the outside** of that area. Please do not wander away from the pen your family members are visiting. There are baby animals that are for viewing only and many others that you will be able to snuggle, pet and take photos up-close with.

**Any guests who are not listening** to the instructions of our guide and/or are found not being gentle when visiting the animals will be required to stay on the outside of the pens for the duration of the visit with a parent. They will be permitted to watch through each gated area. We need to keep our guests and animals safe.

Our **Unicorn and other Fantasy Farm Friends** will be dressed up in costumes. **Your prince or princess** are welcome to dress-up in a royal costume for amazing photographs. Remember that you may be required to sit on the ground in our animal zones. There will be poop on the grass. Our staff will refresh the area several times each day. You can dress your kiddo in a costume just for photos or get things washed when you get home.

We may have a professional photographer on-site some days. You are not required to use their services. You are welcome to purchase the digital photos from them at the fees as posted.

After visiting, you will exit at a hand-washing station. All guests are required to scrub their hands before leaving the zone. We hope you'll come back again and tell your friends of our fun farm friends at Woolley Wonderland!



We have been advocates of hand washing around our animals since we first went "on the road" and continue that practice today.

With the current COVID recommendations by Provincial and Federal health ministries, we have published what we feel our clients should know. **Zoonotic diseases** are infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and people. Some examples of germs that cause diarrheal zoonotic diseases: • Campylobacter (bacteria) • Salmonella (bacteria) • E. coli O157:H7 (bacteria) • Yersinia enterocolitica (bacteria) • Cryptosporidium (parasite). Some germs are naturally in the intestines of healthy livestock and poultry and are found in the animals' feces. Even if an animal appears healthy, it could still pass these germs to you. **People get sick from these germs by swallowing them**. Once the germs are on your hands, you can accidentally get them in your mouth while eating, drinking, or during other hand-to-mouth activities such as smoking or thumb sucking. **The most common symptoms** are diarrhea and abdominal pain. Other symptoms may include vomiting, fever, cramps, and bloody diarrhea. People with mild symptoms usually recover without treatment. However, these illnesses can lead to hospitalizations and severe complications also can occur.

### To reduce risk

Wash your hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds upon exiting animal areas even if you did not touch an animal. Wash your hands before you eat, drink, smoke, or chew (tobacco, gum, etc.). Keep food, drinks, baby bottles, pacifiers, and toys out of animal areas. Strollers and wagons are not permitted in the Critter Connections area. **Children** younger than 5 years old must be supervised while interacting with the animals and during hand washing. Young children are more likely to get sick because they often touch surfaces contaminated with animal stool and are more likely to put their hands in their mouths. Germs can stay on the clothing and shoes you wear while interacting with animals and you can spread these germs to other people who haven't been with the Critters. These steps will help reduce the risk of illness for you, your family and friends.

**Visitors who experience** fever, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting **within a month after interaction** with our animals should consult a doctor.

**GUESTS:** Children 5 years of age and younger, people with weakened immune systems, and adults over 65 years of age are more likely to get sick from the germs animals can carry, and should take extra precautions. If you forget to wash your hands after petting an animal, or bring food or drinks into an area with animals, you increase your chance of getting sick. Even animals that look clean and healthy can carry harmful germs, and areas where animals roam can be contaminated. **You don't have to touch an animal to get sick.**

**Guests must not** place their hands in their mouth or near their faces from the time they wash hands on the way in to the time they wash hands on the way out of our area. Critter Visits staff will dismiss repeat offenders of **this important rule** and they will continue to watch from the outside of the gated zone, a few feet from the enclosure. Parents will supervise their own children around the animals.

**We will disinfect** frequently touched surfaces such as door handles/gates and remove soiled animal bedding and manure promptly. Guests must report an injury (bite, scratch or a break to skin) that has occurred to our staff. Our team has a first aid kit on site, and may temporarily close the area to apply first aid if necessary.

**After visiting the Critter Zone:** Once guests leave the enclosure, hands will be washed, even if you wore gloves and if you didn't touch the animals. Guests should thoroughly clean any items such as clothing, shoes that may have come in contact with soiled surfaces or fecal matter.

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