



WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL

PETTING ZOOS AND ANIMALS

Planning on having a petting zoo, animal farm or animal rides at your event? This fact sheet outlines Council's requirements and animal welfare considerations.

Petting Zoos and Animals at Events

Petting zoos, animal farms and animal rides make for great inclusions at community events. However, not all parks and open spaces within Whitehorse are suitable to host these types of activities.

In addition, as an event organiser you are responsible for ensuring that the welfare of the animals is maintained at your event.

Council Requirements:

- Petting zoos, animal farms and animal rides are not permitted in bushland reserves, such as Blackburn Lake. If you are planning on having animals at your event, contact Council's Events Officer on 9262 6352 or arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au to enquire about the most suitable location.
- Animal farms and animal rides, where approved, must remain within the agreed position, within the designated event area.
- All animals must be in a pen or kept on a leash at all times within the event area.
- Where applicable, appropriate flooring such as plastic covered with straw should be installed to protect lawn areas.

Animal Welfare Considerations:

- Petting zoos, animal farms and animal rides should be located on a flat surface, away from roads.
- If the area is not shaded, shelter should be provided.
- Clarify who is responsible for monitoring and caring for the animals throughout the event and if the supplier has any specific requirements. For example, the provider may require vehicle access directly to their site, if an animal becomes sick or distressed and needs to be transported to a vet; or the operator may require access to water.
- You should also clarify the:
 - Health status of the animals
 - The audience capacity in the petting zoo or animal farm area
 - The turn-around time, the number of people per hour for animal rides
 - Facilities available to the animals throughout the event
 - The required rest periods for the animals

Compliance Requirements

Event organisers must collect copies of the supplier's Public Liability Certificates of Currency and Working with Children Checks.



Questions? Please contact the
Events Officer on 9262 6352
or arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au