

Making Your Child Care Centre a Healthy Environment



A Fact Sheet for Child Care Operators and Staff

York Region Community and Health Services is mandated to inspect all child care centres to ensure compliance with food safety regulations, infection control and safe water standards.

This fact sheet is provided for information and guidance to child care centre operators.

Pets in Your Centre

Having pets in a child care centre is not recommended. Pets can be a source for transmitting diseases and infections and can also cause difficulties for children and staff who are allergic to animal fur, hair, saliva or dander. Infections passed on from animals to humans can include viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites.

If your centre allows pets, the following precautions are recommended:

- Where appropriate, keep pets in pens or cages at all times
- Cleaning cages and feeding animals must be done by staff only - staff must wash their hands following the six-step hand washing procedure (see Correct Hand washing Procedures poster)
- Reptiles and birds carry diseases that can be spread to humans - these animals should not be permitted in child care centres
- All pets must be up to date with current vaccination requirements - dogs and cats must be immunized against rabies
- If a biting or scratching incident occurs, consult a physician and report the incident to York Region Community and Health Services
- Pets are not allowed in eating or food service areas - provide a designated area where pets can sleep and eat
- Pets should not be allowed in the outdoor play area
- Keep animal food out of children's reach
- During an outbreak, all activities involving pets should be suspended until the outbreak is over



For more information, please call
York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653 TTY: 1-866-252-9933
www.york.ca

March 2011

 York Region