



COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

PROGRAM:	Child Care
EFFECTIVE REGULATION:	<i>Rules and Regulations Governing Health and Sanitation of Child Care Facilities in the State of Colorado, effective January 14, 2016</i>
INTERPRETIVE MEMO NO.:	16-02
DATE:	September 1, 2016
SUBJECT:	Special Allowance for Animals Prohibited in Section 7.13.1.B

The *Rules and Regulations Governing Health and Sanitation of Child Care Facilities in the State of Colorado* the (regulations) prohibit live poultry, reptiles and amphibians from the premises of child care facilities caring only for children under the age of five and classrooms with children kindergarten aged and younger and the communal areas used by these children. These animals are known carriers of infectious agents, including *Salmonella sp.*

Young children are especially susceptible to these infections and suffer more severe consequences than the general population when infected. However, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recognizes that teaching young children about animal life is an important part of their development.

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institutions in Colorado aim to educate the public about conservation and instill an appreciation of the natural world through animal and human interactions. Accreditation requires staff training, animal health surveillance and hand hygiene during these interactions. The cleaning and disinfection of surfaces the animals contact during these interactions is another essential component for the control of zoonotic disease transmission.

Therefore, live poultry, reptiles and amphibians from animal ambassador programs administered by actively AZA accredited institutions are allowed within child care classrooms with children kindergarten aged and younger as long as surfaces the animals contact are immediately cleaned and disinfected.

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