

From: [Peter Hamilton](#)
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2008 9:58 AM
To: letters@tc.canwest.ca
Subject: Victoria Petting Zoo

Dear Editor:

Re: Victoria Petting Zoo

I doubt that there would be support for the Petting Zoo businesses if the public was aware of the health hazards and animal abuses. Petting Zoos are hotbeds of harmful pathogens that have made hundreds of people very sick and some have died. Health guidelines are not regulations and Health Authorities can only recommend compliance in order to reduce health risks.

And where do all those cute little baby animals go at the end of the tourism season? Many Petting Zoos sent their animals to auctions and they end up slaughtered for food. Kids aren't educated about the cruelty of factory farming and the ills from eating animals.

Lifeforce is a Vancouver based ecology group that has recently released an extensive report "Petting Zoos: A Silent Epidemic?" (www.lifeforcefoundation.org) . The health hazards and animal abuses cannot be eliminated through guidelines but if the government doesn't ban them then they should at least mandate regulations.

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