

This MLAP (mobile live animal program) inspection checklist has been developed for enforcement officials who inspect MLAPs, policy-makers developing local laws, regulations and/or policies relevant to the presence, either permanently or temporarily, of MLAPs in their jurisdictions and relevant animal welfare agencies and organizations. It is comprehensive to ensure inspections cover all relevant areas and that recorded observations and information are as complete as possible and not deficient in key areas. The questions, many that require simple yes or no answers, are structured to encourage an enhanced degree of objectivity during MLAP assessments and to substantially reduce highly subjective observations and impressions. The checklist can be used, in whole or in part, for inspection of any type of MLAP operation or business.

General

	An	imal areas	
1.	Are	pets, such as dogs and cats, allowed entry?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
2.		nere a transition area between the entrance area and the animal areas? no transition area is observed continue with question 6)	□yes □no
3.	Are signs posted in the transition area to inform visitors of the following:		
	a.	animals are present	🗌 yes 🗌 no
	b.	animals carry germs that can make people sick	🗆 yes 🗌 no
	c.	items like clothing and shoes can become soiled and serve as a source of germs	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	d.	items such as food, drinks, their containers, pacifiers, strollers are not allowed	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	e.	smoking, vaping and tobacco products are not allowed	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	f.	food and drinks cannot be consumed within the animal area	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	g.	nothing should be placed in people's mouth (e.g., fingers, pacifiers, food and drink)	🗆 yes 🗌 no
	h.	vulnerable persons (children under 5, senior citizens, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems) should exercise extra caution and not touch amphibians, reptiles, birds and young ruminants or surfaces they have touched	□yes □no
	i.	handwashing should occur direct after exposure to animals or surfaces animals have contacted	🗆 yes 🗌 no
4.	Are	all signs clearly visible and in easy to understand language?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
5.	Do	employees enforce the conduct instructions posted in the transition area?	□yes □no
6.	Are	there storage or holding areas for strollers and other items that are not permitted in the animal area?	□yes □no
7.	ls v	isitor traffic controlled to prevent overcrowding in the animal area?	□yes □no



8.	Are domesticated/farmed animals (e.g., sheep, cow, goats, horses/ponies, rabbits, chickens) housed in the animal area?	
9.	Are any exotic (non-domesticated) animals (e.g., frogs, snakes, lizards, primates, sloths, zebras, birds of prey) housed in the animal area?	
10.	Is the animal area clean (e.g., free of trash, debris, animal excrement)?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
11.	Are visitors allowed to enter pens/enclosures containing live animals?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
12.	12. Are vulnerable persons prohibited to enter pens/enclosures containing live poultry, young ruminants, reptiles or amphibians?	
13.	3. When contact with animals is allowed, are visitors, and especially children, at all times supervised by staff or volunteers?	
14.	Are visitors allowed to pet animals that are potentially dangerous (e.g., primates and wild cats)?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
15.	Do any animals, used for contact with visitors, appear in poor condition (e.g., obviously ill or injured)?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
16. Are there signs at animal area exit points reminding visitors that:		
	a. handwashing or sanitizing should occur before leaving the animal area	🗆 yes 🗌 no
	b. animals carry germs that can make people sick	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	c. shoes and clothing might have become soiled and can be a source of germs after leaving the animal area	□yes □no

17. Are there handwashing facilities at or near each exit that:

	 a. include soap, running water (sufficient volume and pressure, as per public health guidelines), paper towels and trash receptacles? 	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	b. accessible to children and handicapped persons	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	c. have easy to understand signs, instructing visitors best-practice handwashing method	🗆 yes 🗆 no
18.	Do employees or volunteers remind visitors to wash their hands?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
19.	Do employees or volunteers explain/demonstrate proper handwashing technique?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
20.	Do employees or volunteers follow best practice and handwash their hands after handling an animal or conducting routine animal husbandry tasks (e.g., cleaning)?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
21.	Were staff or volunteers familiar with the health risks of direct and indirect animal contact and could they explain those risks to visitors?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
22.	Are written cleaning logs with regular entries clearly visible at handwashing facilities and can previous logs be presented upon request?	□yes □no



	Animal shows, presentations, demonstrations and contact sessions	
23.	Are there animal shows, presentations and demonstrations, using live animals?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
24.	4. If yes to Q23, identify how animals are used:	
	a . presentations and demonstrations on a stage, available for observation only	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	b . brought out within arm's length of visitors so they can have a closer look	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	c. made available for photographs, including selfies	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	d . made available for contact sessions during or after the presentation/demonstration	🗆 yes 🗆 no
25.	Which animals are used in the activities mentioned in Q23?	□yes □no
26.	How long is each animal used in shows, presentations, demonstrations and contact sessions?	□yes □no
27.	Are the animals portrayed in a way that misrepresents their natural biology or behaviour, such as wearing clothes or performing circus-like stunts?	□yes □no
28.	Are audience members instructed to remain quiet?	□yes □no
29.	Is the show, presentation, demonstration or contact session interrupted or stopped if the audience is noisy, moves around or is disruptive in any other way?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
30.	Are potentially physically dangerous animals (such as large constricting snakes, large lizards, crocodilians, primates or wild cats) used during presentations/demonstrations?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
31.	If yes to Q30, are visitors allowed to touch these animals?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
32.	Are animals, used during contact sessions, restrained by a staff member or volunteer (to prevent biting, scratching, escape, etc.)?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
33.	Do staff members or volunteers remind visitors, prior to animal contact, that touching, or petting may pose a disease risk?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
34.	Are vulnerable persons allowed to touch live poultry, young ruminants, reptiles or amphibians?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
35.	Are vulnerable persons allowed to touch domesticated/farmed animals?	🗆 yes 🗌 no
36.	Are surfaces – that have been contacted by animals – cleaned and disinfected after removal of that animal?	□yes □no



	Visitor education	
37.	Do enclosures, pens and other areas holding animals have signs about the animal?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
38.	If yes to Q37, do signs provide information, such as the species name, distribution, biological, and behavioural traits and conservation status?	□yes □no
39.	Are signs easy to see, read and understand by all visitors (including children)?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
40.	Are printed handouts or other materials provided, containing information about the animals present at the event?	□yes □no
	Facilities	
41.	Are animal food items stored in areas not accessible to the public?	□yes □no
42.	Are animal food items stored in containers that can be securely closed?	□yes □no
43.	Are animal food containers labelled and clearly identified as not for human consumption?	□yes □no
44.	Are there first aid stations as per provincial/local guidelines or regulations?	□yes □no
45.	Are first aid stations well stocked, clearly indicated and conveniently located?	□yes □no
46. Are there written emergency procedures for dealing with:		
	a. injured or ill visitors	🗆 yes 🗌 no
	b. escaped animals	🗆 yes 🗆 no
	c. evacuation of all animals in event of emergency	🗆 yes 🗆 no
•••••	d. fire, flooding or other issues?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
47.	Can the written emergency procedures be readily presented upon request?	□yes □no
48.	Are all staff and volunteers familiar with emergency procedures?	□yes □no



□yes □no

Animal Management and Welfare

49. List names and number of each type of animal species at the event

The following questions should at a minimum include a representative sampling of the animal species and housing conditions at the MLAP event.

50.	Describe the enclosures used per animal species (e.g., aquarium, terrarium, walled cage with transparent viewing wall, metal cage and open-top fenced pen)	□yes	no
51.	Are any animals kept in travel crates (including small plastic, Tupperware-like containers) during the duration of the event?	□ yes	no
52.	Do all cages and enclosures (except for petting zoo areas, or where petting is allowed through barriers) have public stand-off barriers?	□yes	no
53.	Are dangerous animals that pose a physical risk to visitors kept in structurally secure, lockable enclosures with doorways that are not accessible to the public?	□yes	□no
54.	Are any of the cages or enclosures located where there is loud or excessive noise (e.g., generator or other chronic loud noise)?	□yes	□no
55.	Are barriers, enclosures and other materials in good shape (no peeling paint, rust, broken areas)?	□yes	□no
56.	Do barriers and other materials have any sharp edges, protruding wires or similar defects that could harm animals or visitors?	□ yes	🗆 no
57.	Can visitors surround animal enclosures/view animals from all sides?	□yes	🗌 no
58.	Can visitors look down on animals in cages or enclosures?	□yes	🗌 no
59.	Does unregulated feeding of the animals by visitors take place?	□yes	🗌 no
60.	Does regulated feeding of the animals by visitors take place?	□yes	no
61.	Is the frequency of visual inspection, to ensure that animals and their enclosures are in good condition, by staff or volunteers suitable?	□ yes	□no
62.	Is there a protocol for reporting animal health and welfare concerns?	□yes	no
63.	Are animal care staff and volunteers sufficiently trained and competent in observing signs of good animal health and welfare?	□yes	no
64.	Is there appropriate animal capture equipment on site along with trained staff to use it, in the event of an animal escape?	🗆 yes	🗌 no

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65.	Are there adequate provisions for the proper storage and disposal of animal waste as per local regulations?	□yes □no
66.	6. Are the following reports related to animal health and welfare available upon request?	
	a. veterinary reports of all animals present at the event	🗆 yes 🗌 no
	b. animal husbandry manuals and management procedures, event plans and timelines for use and display of animals	□yes □no
67.	Are animals (on and off display) appear to be in good condition?	□yes □no
68.	Are there animals at the event who are known to be nocturnal?	□yes □no
69.	Are nocturnal animals kept in open or photo-invasive conditions?	□yes □no
70.	Are animal species from different geographic regions and habitats (e.g., desert vs. rainforest) kept in similar kinds of cages or enclosures?	□yes □no
71.	Is the space large enough for the animal to engage in normal movements (e.g., running, climbing, swimming, flying and digging)?	□yes □no
72.	Do animals have enough space in all directors, to fully stretch out to make all normal postural adjustments (e.g., snakes should be able to elongate their full body length, birds should be able to fully stretch their wings)?	□yes □no
73.	Is the vertical space equipped with branches or other furnishings that give animals' opportunities to climb or perch off the floor?	□yes □no
74.	Are (semi) aquatic animals provided with water at least as deep as the animal's length?	□yes □no
75.	Are entry and exit points into and out of the water secured to prevent animals from getting stuck in the water and risk drowning.	□yes □no
76.	Are burrowing animals (e.g., badgers, prairie dogs, desert rats and gopher tortoises) able to completely bury their bodies?	□yes □no
77.	Are animals kept on natural, soft substrates?	□yes □no
78.	Are there shelters that allow the animals to fully remove themselves from the view of the public, other animals in nearby cages/enclosures, and their cage mates?	□yes □no
79.	Does the animal's living space have living vegetation (not plastic plants or artificial turf)?	□yes □no
80.	Are bedding materials provided to animals that use them (e.g., small rodents)?	□yes □no



81.	Is the animal's living space large enough to provide a gradient of temperatures that allow the animals to thermoregulate according to their individual needs?	□yes □no
82.	Are there devices or features inside the enclosure that provide heat, light (UV), ventilation and humidity?	□yes □no
83.	Are there devices available to measure heat, light (UV), ventilation and humidity?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
84.	Are there devices or features inside the enclosure that allow for heat, light (UV), ventilation and humidity to be adjusted?	□yes □no
85.	Are UV-B lights provided for animals that require them?	□yes □no
86.	Are all basking animals within one enclosure provided with enough UV light and heat to cover the length of their entire bodies, including tails?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
87.	Are there sufficient furnishings and provisions in the living space for all animals to use at the same time (e.g., drinking/food sources, basking spots, enrichment items, shelter and bedding materials)?	□yes □no
88.	Are food and water receptacles maintained in positions that minimize soiling by the animals (e.g., secured in a manner that it cannot be tipped over)?	□yes □no
89.	Do animals have unrestricted access to clean, potable water provided in a species-appropriate manner (e.g., chameleons only ingest water droplets from leaves)?	🗆 yes 🗌 no

Transportation

90. Describe the crates/containers used for animals' transportation.

91.	Are there devices inside vehicles used to transport animals to measure heat, light (UV), ventilation and humidity?	□yes □no
92.	Are there devices inside vehicles used to transport animals to adjust heat, light (UV), ventilation and humidity?	🗆 yes 🗆 no
93.	An travel protocols, itinerary and emergency plans be provided upon request?	□yes □no



1. Event location

Animal area	Section of the event location where animals and animal displays are present.
Contact area	Any section in the animal area where visitors can touch animals.
Transition area	Section of event location which visitors must pass through in order to reach the animal area, it is the 'bridge' between the non-animal and animal area.
Petting zoo area	A dedicated fenced-off section in the animal area which people must enter in order to touch the animals.

2. Human health

Vulnerable persons	Persons identified by public health agencies as being at higher risk of contracting zoonotic diseases including anyone aged 5 or under, adults aged 65 or older, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems, anyone who has recently had surgery and challenged individuals.
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3. Enclosures

Aquarium	A tank, closed on all sides, fully surrounding the animal, containing water, with one or more sides made of a clear material, such as glass, to enable easy viewing below the surface of the water, usually housing aquatic animal species.
Bird stand	A structure that allows a bird one or a variety of options to perch. Birds can be tethered to the structure or untethered, but wings might be clipped or trimmed to prevent flight.
Open-top fenced pen	A secured fenced-off area, without a covered top.
Terrarium	A tank-like structure, closed on all sides, fully surrounding the animal, having one or more sides made of a clear material, such as glass, to enable easy viewing, usually used for small land dwelling and semi-aquatic animals.
Travel container	A transportable crate-like structure used for transportation purposes, usually severely restricts the animals' natural movements. Smaller Tupperware-like containers can be used within the crate-like structure to keep animals separated.
Walled cage	An enclosure, closed on all sides, fully surrounding the animal, having one or more sides made of a clear material, such as glass, to enable easy viewing, usually used for small or mid-sized animals.

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4. Floor surfaces/substrates

Artificial turf	Surface of synthetic fibers usually made to look like natural grass.
Earth	Soil that is loose or compact, good for digging.
Gravel/stone chip	A mixture of sand and small, often waterworn stones or pieces of broken stone.
Sand	A loose granular substance.
Straw	Dry cut stalks of cereal grasses.
Tether	The restraint of animals using leather, fiber cord, rope or other means, usually secured around a leg, to keep the animal in one location.
Tile	A thin slab/tablet of rubber or cork.
Wire	Threaded or woven metal or other material which can be used on top of a sub-surface or raised off the ground, as primary barrier or to cover the top of an enclosure.
Wood chips/shavings/wool	Broken down into pieces or shavings or the by-product of cut wood.

5. Exhibit furnishings

Drinking container	A bowl, trough, container or drip (lixit) bottle that provides fresh water for drinking purposes that can be placed on the ground or suspended on the wall.
Bathing container	A bowl containing water for bathing purposes, large enough for animal to fully submerge their entire body and/or swim.
Beams/perches	Vertical, horizontal or diagonally placed wooden, metal or plastic bars, rods, etc., which an animal use for elevated locomotory or resting purposes.
Ladders	Sets of horizontal bars attached at each end to wooden or metal bars or ropes suspended to a ceiling, wall or cage furniture or otherwise affixed, provides vertical or horizontal movement.
Monkey bars	Artificial structure made of metal or wood that provides opportunities for vertical and horizontal movements including climbing, jumping and swinging.
Nets/hammocks	Rope nets from fishing boats, cargo nets from airplanes and hammocks made from woven rope, fire hose or other materials suspended above the ground, usually used as resting platform.
Raised platforms	Any raised, flat area that allows an animal to sit or lie comfortably.
Raised walkways	Any kind of raised connected structure that an animal can move along horizontally, from one point in an enclosure to another.
Ropes/swings	Woven rope or other materials secured on both ends creating a U-shape.

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Rubbing posts	Furnishings of any material but usually roughly textured wood or stone that can be used for grooming purposes
Sand/earth/straw box	Movable box-type structure, usually large but shallow, filled with sand, bark-chips, earth, straw, grass, sawdust or other materials, in which an animal can dig and forage for hidden food items, sand bathe, etc.

6. Privacy shelters

Artificial shelter	Any kind of artificial structure (e.g., wooden box, brick den and simulated hollow log) situated within an enclosure whose purpose is to provide privacy and/or shelter.
Natural shelter	Any area of vegetation (e.g., shrubs, high grass) that provides privacy and/or shelter.
Opportunistic shelter	Any non-natural item (e.g., cardboard box, concrete pipe, cut-out barrel) that can function as an animal shelter.
Secondary enclosure	Enclosure attached to public facing primary enclosure that allows the animal to retreat from view or visitors and/or cage companions.
Shelter	An area where animals can fully remove themselves from the view of the public, enclosure companions or other animals housed in nearby enclosures, can be used for shelter or privacy.
Sheltered perch	Any perch for birds that is screened or obstructed from view that provides shelter or privacy.
Underground den/alcove	Any underground area that an animal can retreat to for shelter or privacy.

7. Environmental conditions

Lighting	
Fluorescent	Lights usually in the form of glass gas filled tubes commonly used in shops and offices that give off a bright but widely dispersed light capable of lighting larger areas. Only contains UV-A.
Full spectrum/ultraviolet	Usually in the form of tube lights similar to Fluorescent lights that give off a deep purple light that will greatly illuminate any white item while everything else around appears to remain in semi darkness.
Incandescent bulb	Any non-natural item (e.g., cardboard box, concrete pipe, cut-out barrel) that can function as an animal shelter.
Photo-invasive	The exposure to unwanted, often harmful, amount of light.



Photoperiod	The natural period of time each day during which animals receive light; day length.
Skylight	Glass/Perspex covered openings in the roof/ceiling of buildings that enable the inside to be illuminated by natural daylight.
Spot	Almost "mushroom" shaped glass light designed to concentrate light into a localised area in front of/below the unit.
UV-A	Wavelength of 320-400 nm, some animals (e.g., reptiles) are able to see this light range might vary, most light bulbs will emit UV-A.
UV-B	Wavelength of 280-320 nm, some animals (e.g., reptiles) require UV-B to synthesize vitamin D3, which is crucial for a variety of physiological processes. Various animals classified as nocturnal require UV-B despite being mostly active when there is no sunlight. The sun is the natural source for UV-B, special light bulbs that emit UV-B have been developed but have to be changed frequently since these bulbs loose their strength.
Windows	Glass/Perspex covered openings in the walls of buildings that enable the inside to be illuminated by natural daylight.
Heat	
Infrared	Bulbs radiating a red-like colour and heat, often used to create localized areas of higher temperature. Does not contain UV-B.
Humidity	
Humidity	The level of concentrated water vapour present in the air.

8. Physical appearance concerns

Bald patches	Areas of hair, fur, feather or scale loss.
Poor fur	Dull, unkempt, patchy (note: some animals shed fur periodically).
Feather damage	Broken, displaced, worn or appearing to be in poor condition.
Grossly overweight	Noticeably overweight (fat rolls, thick round bodies, in some animals bellies lower than normal, etc.)
Grossly underweight	Generally gaunt appearance, protruding bones.
Lameness/limping	When an animal is unable to walk properly due to injury or physical defect.
Open cuts	Injures or wounds that are relatively new and have not yet had a chance to heal.



Scars	Wounds that have healed.
Swelling/lumps	Enlarged areas of an animal's body due to injury, irritation, disease or parasites.
Open sores	Wounds that are not healing and may show signs of infection and tissue necrosis (tissue dying around the wound).
Overgrown beak/teeth	Growth that is obviously abnormal, creating discomfort or impeding ability to eat normally.
Overgrown nails/claws/ hooves	Growth that is obviously abnormal, creating discomfort or impeding ability to move normally.

9. Behavioural observations (partial list only)

Bar biting	Biting or holding the bars of the enclosure in the animal's mouth. In extreme circumstances this can be an aggressive action, which may result in broken teeth.
Begging	Any posture assumed or action displayed by an animal that is meant to solicit food or attention from visitors.
Circling	An animal moving in a circular motion, which may become more pronounced to the point of throwing itself around if the animal becomes excessively agitated.
Coprophagy	Eating excrement.
Hyper-aggressiveness	Obtrusive, energetic actions (including fighting) against other animals or visitors. Can result in injury or damage of receiving subject.
Excessive grooming	A loss of fur, hair or feathers due to grooming.
Feather plucking	A loss of feathers due to self plucking or plucking by a cage companion.
Head weaving	The moving of the head from side to side in a repetitive motion, in extreme cases the movement may be so exaggerated that it will cause the fore limbs and front of the animals' body to lift off the ground.
Interaction with transparent boundaries	Common in reptiles, may manifest as continuous attempts to move through glass/ transparent boundaries, can lead to injuries like friction lesions on nose, body, as well as broken claws and digits.
Lethargy	Animal is awake but appears drowsy, sluggish or generally unresponsive to its surroundings.
Neck turning	When an animal throws its head back in a violent circular motion, sometimes during a change of direction during pacing/walking about the cage but may occur from a stationary position as an animal resumes forward movement. In this case the front legs/ arms usually come right off the ground as the animal throws the head back.

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Object licking	Repeated licking of one or several objects in an animal's immediate surroundings.
Pacing	The constant motion of an animal between any two or more points in an enclosure (usually along the fence but may be between any points within the three-dimensional space of an enclosure) in a repetitive manor, without apparent purpose.
Rocking	Rocking may follow or precede head weaving and swaying or may be a solitary action. Identified when an animal exhibits a backwards-forward motion without necessarily moving from the spot and may increase to a point where the front legs lift from the ground in a stomping motion.
Self-mutilation	Repeated bites, scratches, wounding and or striking at an animal's own body that my result in damage or injury.
Stereotypic swimming	A constant swimming pattern between two or more points within a pool in which the movements are repetitive and without apparent purpose.
Swaying	Side to side motion (rather than back-and-forward), sometimes causing the front legs to lift, causing a bounce effect.
Tongue playing	Constant manipulation of the tongue with no apparent purpose.
Vomiting	Ejecting the contents of the stomach through the mouth.

10. Safety and security

Double door entry system	A system for entering cages where one door is opened, entered and closed prior to a second door into the actual exhibit being opened. Critical when dealing with dangerous animals.
Secure area	A separate, totally secure area into which (potentially dangerous) animals can be segregated while their enclosures are being cleaned or maintained.
Stand-off barrier	A fence, wall or other barrier designed to keep visitors a safe distance from the animal cages (primary boundary) and to prevent human/animal contact.
Perimeter fence	A fence or structure, surrounding the event location and discourages escaped animals from leaving the grounds and feral animals and human vandals from entering.