



## Risk Assessment – Animal House

|              |          |                |         |              |        |
|--------------|----------|----------------|---------|--------------|--------|
| Produced By: | N Senior | Date of Issue: | 11/2/19 | Review Date: | 1/9/22 |
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### Operating Notes:

- Supervision ratio is 1 instructor to 1 class plus one additional instructor nearby. There is no requirement for an additional adult.
- Instructor to be trained to in-house syllabus. Refresher training as directed by session observations.

**Risk – Benefit Statement:** By learning about animals we reduce any risk they present to use. Handling animals has benefits to pupils learning and well being

| Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk        | Who may be harmed | Control Measures  | Risk Rating |
|--|-------------------|---|-------------|
| Zoonotic diseases<br><br><b>Handling Animals</b>             | Participants      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health of animals monitored closely</li> <li>• Pupils told not to put their fingers in their mouths in the animal house</li> <li>• Pupils must wash their hands with warm soapy water on leaving the animal house</li> <li>• </li> </ul>   | low         |
| Allergic reaction<br><b>Feather, fur, nut/seed allergies</b> | All               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check booking form for allergies</li> <li>• Ask teacher before introducing the rabbit</li> <li>• Check nut/seed allergies as some animals are fed on seed mixture</li> <li>• Remove children and adults from animal house who are showing signs of an allergic reaction and make sure member of school staff is with them to monitor/take action</li> <li>• Animals that produce strong toxins are kept in containers</li> </ul> | medium      |

| Risk Matrix   | Slightly Harmful | Harmful | Extremely Harmful |
|---------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Unlikely      | Low              | Low     | Medium            |
| Likely        | Low              | Medium  | High              |
| Highly likely | Medium           | High    | High              |



|                                     |              |   |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|-----|
| <b>Phobias<br/>Handling Animals</b> | All          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fears expressed by pupils and adults will be respected</li> <li>Pupils who are unsure of certain animals are told to fold their arms so the instructor doesn't bring the animal close</li> <li>People with genuine phobias may feel able to observe if seated by exit</li> </ul>   | low |
| <b>Animal bites</b>                 | Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils and adults are told the must never put finger in cages</li> <li>Instructors model relaxed and gentle handling of animal</li> <li>Pupils behaving in an unsafe way will be excluded for the safety of the class</li> <li>Centre staff are responsible for the behaviour animals, school staff for the behaviour of the pupils</li> <li>Instructors explain how to handle each animal so that the animal feels safe e.g. stroke back of animal, one pupil at a time</li> <li>Anyone who is bitten should be taken for medical assistance straight away</li> </ul> | low |
| <b>Stress/harm to animals</b>       | Animals      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The animal house is locked unless a member of Austerfield staff is in it</li> <li>Pupils reminded to be quiet and calm</li> <li>Pupils told not to tap on glass or tease animals</li> <li>Pupils ability to be gentle with animals assessed and opportunity restricted where necessary</li> <li>Pupils wash hands before entering animal house</li> </ul>  | low |
| <b>First Aid emergencies</b>        |              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note injuries inflicted by animals need professional medical attention</li> </ul>  |     |

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