



Risk Assessment – Animal House

Produced By:	N Senior	Date of Issue:	11/2/19	Review Date:	1/9/24
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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 Handling Animals	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health of animals monitored closely • Pupils told not to put their fingers in their mouths in the animal house • Pupils must wash their hands with warm soapy water on leaving the animal house • 	low
Allergic reaction Feather, fur, nut/seed allergies	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check booking form for allergies • Check nut/seed allergies as some animals are fed on seed mixture • 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 • Animals that produce strong toxins are kept in containers 	medium
Phobias	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fears expressed by pupils and adults will be respected 	low

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



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

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