**Animal-Club Risk Assessment for Animal Encounter Visits**

**V. 2018/2019**

As a company that deals with exotic animals and children, Animal-Club takes health and safety issues extremely seriously. To this end, all animals used are hand reared and accustomed to being handled on a daily basis. Animals are checked and assessed at regular intervals. In the interests of hygiene, animal’s enclosures are cleaned regularly and a strict hand-washing regime is established at the beginning of every session. All animals are provided with food and water at regular intervals.  
  
Transportation – animals will be transported in secure, comfortable enclosures that minimise stress. All animals, including reptiles, will be kept warm during transit and demonstrations by Animal-Club using containers that are well insulated. Whilst in transit and in the places where the demonstrations are taking place Animal-Club will ensure that temperatures in these areas are sufficiently high to ensure all animals remain at a suitably high temperature.

Handwashing will be encouraged after handling and facilities will be provided at all times by using hand sanitiser (provided).  
  
During shows – animals will be kept in the same enclosures they were transported in.

Outside showtimes – the comfort of each individual animal is paramount. All animals are suitable for keeping as house pets and live in a home environment appropriate each type.

**NOTE: Presenters reserve the right to not pass an animal around if they consider there is a risk to either the animal or the pupil.**

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|  | **Risk Type 1: Biting** | **Risk Type 2: Escaping** | **Risk Type 3: Other** | **Overall risk** |
| **Stick insects** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | Low risk | No risk | LOW RISK |
| **Giant Millipede** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | Low risk | Irritant liquid – harmless chemical content but can cause minor effects on the skin such as irritant and itching, and very rarely blisters, eczema, and occasionally cracked skin.  Low Risk | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | n/a | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to return the animal. | Do not restrict movement and avoid putting any pressure if out of the enclosure. Only to be handled by presenter |
| **Snakes – Royal Python / Corn Snake/ Stewart’s Milk Snake** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Snakes used are constrictor and are non-venomous. It is not in the animals' nature to bite unless under a high level of distress.  Low risk | Low risk | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | In case of a bite: the bites are small and unlikely to break the skin. If biting occurs ranger will secure all animals as well as seeking medical assistance. | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter. In case of escape – presenter to return the animal. | n/a |
| **Veiled / Yemen Chameleon** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | Low risk | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by an experienced presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Lizard - Gecko** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Lizard – Bearded Dragon** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Amphibian - Frog** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Amphibian - Salamander** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Tortoise** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Stick / Leaf Insect** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | LOW RISK | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Tarantula** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Biting – Only occurs if the animal is under stress and in a state of distress.  Three signs first – Tries to run away, Waves Legs, Wiggles Sternum and fires hairs off | LOW RISK | Irritation can result from contact with the itching hairs on the tarantula. LOW RISK  Dropping the animal. The animal can be in danger if dropped from a height. MODERATE RISK | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid a risk** | To avoid: presenter to watch for signs of duress and act accordingly. Animal remains in the secured transportation enclosure at all times. | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – qualified presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | To avoid irritation: remove tarantula.  TO avoid causing harm to the tarantula: presenter to leave the animal in an enclosure at all times. |
| **Scorpion** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | Stinging – Only occurs if the animal is under duress and in a state of distress. | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid risk** | n/a | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – qualified presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | To avoid: presenter to watch for signs of duress and act accordingly. Animal remains in the secured transportation enclosure at all times. |
| **Madagascan Hissing Cockroach** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | n/a | Supervised by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – qualified presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Giant African snail** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | No risk | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Supervised by a qualified presenter.  In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Guinea Pig** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Only occurs if the animal is under duress  LOW RISK | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | Presenter to advise learners on the best way to handle the animal and to supervise at all times. If a bite occurs presenter to return the animal to an enclosure and seek medical assistance. | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter. In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Rabbit** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Biting / Scratching– Only occurs if the animal is under duress  LOW RISK | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | The animal is not held – stroked only and not on pupils laps | Keep in secured transportation enclosure. Handled by a qualified presenter. In case of escape – presenter to deal with the return of the animal. | n/a |
| **Rat** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Biting / Scratching– Very rare - Only occurs if the animal is under duress.  LOW RISK | LOW RISK | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | Handle sensibly | Qualified presenter to handle and supervise at all times. If escape occurs ranger will recover animal. | n/a |
| **Blue Tongued Skink** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Skinks used are hand-reared and reluctant to bite. Qualified Presenter to supervise at all times. If biting occurs ranger will secure all animals as well as seeking medical assistance. | LOW | n/a | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | Handle sensibly | Keep secure in the enclosure. Presenter to supervise at all times. If escape occurs, Presenter will recover animal. |  |
| **Hermit Crabs** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | n/a | LOW | Nipping | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** |  | Keep secure in the enclosure. Presenter to supervise at all times. If escape occurs, Presenter will recover the animal. | Hermit Crabs to be handled by Presenter at all times. Hermit Crabs use their claws like we use our hands to investigate the world around them. |
| **Pygmy Hedgehog** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Hedgehogs used are hand-reared and reluctant to bite. Qualified Presenter to supervise at all times. If biting occurs ranger will secure all animals as well as seeking medical assistance. | LOW | Prickling | LOW RISK |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | Handle sensibly | Keep secure in the enclosure. Presenter to supervise at all times. If escape occurs, Presenter will recover the animal. | Hedgehogs are hand reared and reluctant to bite. However, if stroked towards the head there is a risk of being prickled! Better to stroke away from the head. Presenter to supervise at all times |  |
| **Boxes falling and causing animals to escape** | | | | |
| **Risk level** | Overall LOW RISK if set up correctly | | | |
| **Actions to avoid the risk** | Presenter to remain in the same dedicated area throughout the duration of the visit.  Avoid moving station between the rooms in the building. Station to be set up against the wall in a remote corner of the room, pupils to come and be guided to sit down by the ranger.  Teachers/teaching assistants/dedicated responsible member of staff/parents to be present to manage behaviour.  If present at the open space event use rope barriers to create boundaries. | | | |
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