



**ANIMALS IN MIND
BENEFITS / RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION EVENT 2023-2024**

Type of Activity

Animal Assisted Education for events incorporating a range of pet animal species. The benefits of sessions are potentially vast with low level risk that have sensible and easily achieved control measure to leave residual risks as very low.

Benefits of the activity

The benefits for event clients are numerous. These include enjoyment, increased education, relaxation and increased confidence and self-esteem being able to meet and hear about a range of animals.

Risks – Considered are the location, the context and participants typically attending event - see table below for the main associated risk of animal education events.

Hazard and to whom	Likelihood	Severity	Risk factor (Likelihood x severity)	What control methods are in place to reduce likelihood or severity?	Residual risk factor
Bites/Scratches to clients / event visitors and staff from animals	2	1	2	Animals are selected for their temperament and checked for their health prior to a visit. Animals are supervised 100% of the time and the animal's behaviour and clients handling or interactions monitored at all times. Correct handling (where carried out) is demonstrated, observed, and practiced. Animal behaviour is monitored and acted upon, via split attention and only one animal with a client at a time. Animals with known behavioural issues are not used. The Animal Stewards have expertise, training, and qualifications in Animal Behaviour, and can use 'split attention' to adjust any interaction that might lead to adverse reaction by an animal. Where snakes form part of any activity, these are non-venomous and chosen for their docile nature. Hand washing or sensitisation between	2 (2x1)



				species eliminates animals encountering the presence of a predator / or other territorial species.	
Allergies - The Client / Animal Steward, or Staff Assisting	2	2	4	<p>Animals in Mind are asked to be made aware in advance of anyone with allergies to animals (including bees/wasps) or nuts. However, we do re-check during encounters.</p> <p>Most animals are short-haired with little risk of fur allergy. Access to lose hay is considered prior to each client interaction, on a person-centred basis (related to allergies).</p> <p>There are currently no animals at Animals in Mind, who eat nuts, but some seed eaters may need to be avoided and done so on a client, by client basis. Clients with eczema, dermatitis or other skin condition that might be aggravated by alcohol-based hand gels will be asked to use soap and water instead, or if preferred latex free medical gloves. Restorative hand creams can be provided for use after washing / use of gels.</p>	2 (1x2)
Phobias - The visitors	2	1	2	<p>Phobias will be checked at the booking stage and will be checked with clients as they come to the event.</p> <p>Signs of fear will also be observed during dynamic risk-assessment through split attention. When multiple animals are incorporated into the event, visitors are given a warning before an animal is brought out so they can move away or chose not to partake. Activities with the snake and tarantula can be done without getting close to the animals if necessary. Phobias are treated with empathy and dignity by the staff and peer-pressure is not permitted.</p>	
Zoonotic / Infectious Disease - The customers, the Animal Stewards/ Staff	2	3	6	All animals are kept in a positive, clean and hygienic environment, in line with our animal welfare policy and as inspected by the local authority in our Animals for Exhibit License (renewed February 2023).	3 (1x3)



				<p>Animals attending the event are checked daily and assessed for health prior to use. Animals are vaccinated (where vaccinations are required and advised by our vet). Animals are checked / treated for external parasites such as ticks, lice and fleas and treated accordingly. Non rescue Animals are sourced from captive bred stock and not wild-caught sources, reducing the risk of disease and ensuring ethical conservation practices are considered.</p> <p>Animal feed is purchased from credible traceable sources. Feed is stored in secure feed bins to prevent vermin and prevent cross contamination. The Animals in Mind Director monitors DEFRA guidelines in relation to disease control and topical outbreaks and take preventative measures (e.g., Bird Flu notifications).</p> <p>At events - Strict hygiene briefing included for the animal steward, and clients in all activities. Eating and drinking during animal interventions is not permitted. Pregnant clients will not be permitted to handle reptiles (Salmonella risk). Signage is in place to ensure compliance by visitors.</p> <p>Clients are told about the importance of not eating or touching their faces during and after handling the animals until they have washed their hands. Hand washing facilities must be available, and all hands must be washed after handling the animals. Anti-bacterial hand-gels are utilised frequently between animals but are not a substitute for correct handwashing. Ground sheets, and furniture coverings are used when animals are on site, so that animals do not come into contact with on-site floor coverings. Animal housing (permanent and temporary) is regularly disinfected (DEFRA / species approved) and fresh bedding supplied. Any animal waste produced on event sites, is cleaned up quickly, this is double bagged and is not disposed of on visitation sites but is disposed of in line with our animal waste disposal policy (evidenced via Local Authority Licensing Inspector).</p>	
--	--	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--



				Children volunteers under the age of 14 are not permitted to deal with animal waste.	
Burns or electrocution to staff and visitors from electrical equipment	2	3	6	<p>Electrical equipment might include an electrical extension lead, heat mat, or heat lamp for exotic species such as tortoises or bearded dragons. All equipment is either renewed annually, or PAT tested annually, with a record of dates of purchase.</p> <p>Heat lamps are positioned away from reach from children / members of the public to prevent burns and staff are reminded about the risks of moving the animal carefully if basking at the time of removal.</p>	3 (1x3)
Fire / ignition of materials – Customers and staff	1	3	3	Fire exits at venues to be noted and kept clear. Fire evacuation procedures noted, including the safe evacuation of animals. Wires are kept away from animals and clients. Trailing wires are not permitted. Combustible materials are not used on site. Electrical equipment, such as heat mats are kept flat in storage and annually PAT tested, when over 12 months old, or replaced and a record of all electrical equipment PAT test is maintained.	3 (1 x 3)
Slips, Trips, and falls for clients and staff	2	2	4	Animals are contained in small enclosures during activities and not permitted loose, unless in a controlled environment to prevent slips and trips. Any spilt fluids are cleaned immediately and cleaned with disinfectant wipes. Animal stewards set up areas to ensure equipment does not cause trip hazards.	3 (1 x 3)
Abuse of children/vulnerable adults	2	3	6	<p>AiM have a strict safeguarding policy and procedures, which is audited, and quality assured by Social Farms and Gardens Kitemark and Safer CIC (we hold excellence in Safeguarding Kitemark).</p> <p>We have a safer recruitment procedure and all staff and over 18 volunteers are DBS checked every three years, and references checked.</p> <p>All staff receive a safeguarding induction and complete safeguarding training – this is updated in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).</p>	3 (1x3)



			<p>AiM staff attend in branded uniforms, carrying identification, and copies of our DBS. The DBS can be checked directly on the DBS online checking service free of charge by those booking / approving the service.</p> <p>AiM Staff follow CQC expected care standards and procedures and or follow the clients own safeguarding procedures and familiarise themselves with the designated safeguarding lead.</p>	
--	--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Assessment scoring- Scores of 8 and above cease activity or reassess the control measures.					
Likelihood		Hazard severity		Risk Factor (likelihood x hazard severity)	
1	Very unlikely	1	Minor injury, scratches, bruises, burns etc.	1-3	Low
2	Unlikely	2	Moderate injury, cuts, grazing, burns etc.	4-7	Moderate
3	Likely	3	Serious- Person requires hospital treatment or time of school/work	8-12	High
4	Very likely	4	Significant, risk of death or loss of limbs/ eyesight etc.	13-16	Very High

Written by Lynn Hart	Date: 13 th May 2023	Expected date for update: 13 th May 2024
----------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------