

**Risk Assessments for Animal Handling (including Bearded Dragons, Corn Snakes, Giant African Land Snail, Giant Millipedes and a Tenrec) with School Visits to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

<b>Aspects to Consider (Actual Hazards)</b>	<b>Control Measures</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Level of Risk</b>
1. Animal escaping during presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom or gallery doors to be closed whilst presentations take place</li> <li>• Signs to be put on gallery doors informing public to keep out whilst presentations take place</li> <li>• Animals to be housed in secure carriers while being transported at venue</li> <li>• Animals never to be left unattended out of their secure vivariums</li> </ul>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>
2. Infections and bites during handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers to brief their group regarding any potential hazards and supervise the children during sessions</li> <li>• Education Team to have knowledge of animals being handled and supervise handling to ensure gentle handling so as not to excite defence mechanisms</li> <li>• Everyone (including Gardens' staff) to be reminded to wash hands after handling animals and</li> </ul>	<b>Low to Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low to Medium</b>

	<p>individual specimens to prevent the small possibility of contracting infections including Salmonella virus and passing them on between animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hand gel to be made accessible to groups during sessions</li><li>• Animals used in sessions to be chosen for their temperament and no venomous animals to be used</li><li>• Disinfectant to be offered schools to treat anyone in the unlikely event of being bitten by snakes</li><li>• Teachers to bring trained first aider(s) and first aid equipment</li><li>• Protective rubber gloves to be offered to handle millipedes to prevent caustic urine irritating skin (teachers to check for latex allergies)</li><li>• Any animal being aggressive to handler or group to be removed from presentation immediately</li><li>• Snakes not to be handled if shedding their skins or immediately after eating</li><li>• Animals to be given non-handling time including weekends to reduce stress that could cause aggressive behaviour</li></ul>			
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<p><b>3. Fear and fainting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animals to be introduced to the children in a supportive environment so children can overcome their fears safely</li> <li>• Children to be invited to handle animals and not obliged to during sessions</li> <li>• Any children or adults showing signs of extreme fear to be taken to one side by school staff and given support</li> <li>• Nominated school first aider to administer any necessary medication, including EpiPens, to children known to be an allergy sufferer to any of the animals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Low to Medium</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p><b>Low to Medium</b></p>
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