Risk Assessments for Animal Handling (including Bearded Dragons, Corn Snakes and Giant Millipedes)  
with Non-Birmingham and Independent School Visits to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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<th>Aspects to Consider (Actual Hazards)</th>
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| 1. Animal escaping during presentations | • Classroom or gallery doors to be closed whilst presentations take place  
• Signs to be put on gallery doors informing public to keep out whilst presentations take place  
• Animals to be housed in secure carriers while being transported at venue  
• Animals never to be left unattended out of their secure vivariums | Low | Low | Low |
| 2. Infections and bites during handling | • Teachers to brief their group regarding any potential hazards and supervise the children during sessions  
• Education Officer/Volunteer to have knowledge of animals being handled and supervise handling to ensure gentle handling so as not to excite defence mechanisms  
• Everyone (including Gardens’ staff) to be reminded to wash hands after handling animals and | Low to Medium | Low | Low to Medium |
individual specimens to prevent the small possibility of contracting infections including Salmonella virus and passing them on between animals

- Hand gel to be made accessible to groups during sessions
- Animals used in sessions to be chosen for their temperament and no venomous animals to be used
- Disinfectant to be offered schools to treat anyone in the unlikely event of being bitten by snakes
- Teachers to bring trained first aider(s) and first aid equipment
- Protective rubber gloves to be offered to handle millipedes to prevent caustic urine irritating skin (teachers to check for latex allergies)
- Any animal being aggressive to handler or group to be removed from presentation immediately
- Snakes not to be handled if shedding their skins or immediately after eating
- Animals to be given non-handling time including weekends to reduce stress that could cause aggressive behaviour
3. Fear and fainting

- Animals to be introduced to the children in a supportive environment so children can overcome their fears safely
- Children to be invited to handle animals and not obliged to during sessions
- Any children or adults showing signs of extreme fear to be taken to one side by school staff and given support
- Nominated school first aider to administer any necessary medication, including Epipens, to children known to be an allergy sufferer to any of the animals

| Low to Medium | Low | Low to Medium |