

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

Aspects to Consider (Actual Hazards)	Control Measures	Severity	Probability	Level of Risk
1. Animal escaping during presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers to brief their group regarding any potential hazards and supervise the children during sessions • Education Team 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

	<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">• 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			
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<p>3. Fear and fainting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Low to Medium</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low to Medium</p>
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