

Education Risk Assessment for Animal Handling

(including; Bearded Dragon, Corn Snake, Fire Salamander, Giant Land Snail, Stick Insect, Panther Chameleon, Lesser Tenrec and Hissing Cockroach)

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 • Animals to be housed in secure carriers while being transported • Animals never to be left unattended out of their secure vivariums 	Low	Low	Low
2. Infection and animal aggression during handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group adults to brief their group regarding any potential hazards and supervise the children during sessions • Gardens' Education staff to have knowledge of animals being handled and supervise to ensure gentle handling so as not to excite defence mechanisms • Antimicrobial hand gel to be made accessible to groups during sessions • Everyone (children and adults) to gel hands between handling animals to prevent the small possibility of contracting or spreading infection • Any accompanying adult who is (or suspects they could be) pregnant should not handle any animal, particularly reptiles • Animals used in sessions to be chosen for their temperament • No venomous animals to be used • Groups to bring trained first aider(s) and their own first aid equipment • Any animal being aggressive to handler or group to be removed from presentation immediately • Snakes not to be handled if shedding their skin or within 24 hours of eating • Animals to be given non-handling time, including weekends, to reduce stress that could cause aggressive behaviour • Noise levels to be kept to a minimum during sessions so not to cause stress to animals 	Low to Medium	Low	Low to Medium
3. Fear of animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals to be introduced in a supportive environment so children (and adults) can overcome any fears safely • Children to be invited, not obliged, to handle animals during sessions • Any children showing signs of extreme fear to be taken out of session by group adults and given support • Nominated first aider(s) to administer any necessary medication, including EpiPens, to anyone experiencing allergic symptoms 	Low	Low to Medium	Low to Medium