

## **Education Risk Assessment for Animal Handling**

(including; Bearded Dragon, Corn Snake, Fire Salamander, Peter's Banded Skink, Giant African Land Snail, Sunny Stick Insect, Yemen Chameleon, Lesser Madagascan Tenrec, Giant African Olive Millipede and Hissing Cockroach)

<b>Aspects to Consider (Actual Hazards)</b>	<b>Control Measures</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Level of Risk</b>
<b>1.</b> Animal escaping during presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom or Gallery doors to be closed whilst presentations take place</li> <li>• Animals to be housed in secure carriers while being transported</li> <li>• Animals never to be left unattended out of their secure vivariums</li> </ul>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>2.</b> Infection and animal aggression during handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group adults to brief their group regarding any potential hazards and supervise the children during sessions</li> <li>• Gardens' Education staff to have knowledge of animals being handled and supervise to ensure gentle handling so as not to excite defence mechanisms</li> <li>• Antimicrobial hand gel to be made accessible to groups during sessions</li> <li>• Everyone (children and adults) to gel hands between handling animals to prevent the small possibility of contracting or spreading infection</li> <li>• Any accompanying adult who is (or suspects they could be) pregnant should not handle any animal, particularly reptiles</li> <li>• Animals used in sessions to be chosen for their temperament</li> <li>• No venomous animals to be used</li> <li>• Groups to bring trained first aider(s) and their own first aid equipment</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 skin or within 24 hours of eating</li> <li>• Animals to be given non-handling time, including weekends, to reduce stress that could cause aggressive behaviour</li> <li>• Noise levels to be kept to a minimum during sessions so not to cause stress to animals</li> </ul>	<b>Low to Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low to Medium</b>
<b>3.</b> Fear of animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animals to be introduced in a supportive environment so children (and adults) can overcome any fears safely</li> <li>• Children to be invited, not obliged, to handle animals during sessions</li> <li>• Any children showing signs of extreme fear to be taken out of session by group adults and given support</li> <li>• Nominated first aider(s) to administer any necessary medication, including EpiPens, to anyone experiencing allergic symptoms</li> </ul>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low to Medium</b>	<b>Low to Medium</b>