

Education Risk Assessment for Animal Handling

(including; Bearded Dragon, Corn Snake, Fire Salamander, Peter's Banded Skink, Giant African Land Snail, Sunny & Indian Stick Insect, Lesser Madagascan Tenrec and Madagascan 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