



Animal specific Risk Assessment

Species	Hazard Risks	Risk Level	Control Measures	Responsibility
Leopard Gecko	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High	Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Children to follow instructions
Crested Gecko	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High	Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Children to follow instructions
Gargoyle Gecko	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High	Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Children to follow instructions

Giant day gecko	Bite	Low	Giant day gecko is not handled by anyone except trained staff whilst at home. If they come out to a session they are visual only and not even staff get them out.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions
Giant New Caledonian gecko	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions
Sudan plated lizard	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions
Bearded Dragon	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions

Schneider's /berber skink	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Frilled dragon	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Blue tongued skink	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Ackie monitors	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		

Green iguana	Bite	Medium	Fully trained staff only to handle, feed etc Any interactions are closely monitored	Staff only to hold Anyone else is a guided interaction
	Claws	Medium	Fully trained staff only to handle, feed etc Any interactions are closely monitored	
	Tail whip	Low	Fully trained staff only to handle, feed etc Any interactions are closely monitored	
	Salmonella	High	Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them. When at events staff only to hold and guided interaction only. Iguana to wear harness and lead to prevent escape if out of enclosure.	
	Escape	Low		
Red Tegu	Bite	High	Fully trained staff only to handle, feed etc Any interactions are closely monitored	Staff only to hold Anyone else is a guided interaction
	Claws	Medium	Fully trained staff only to handle, feed etc Any interactions are closely monitored	
	Tail whip	Low	Fully trained staff only to handle, feed etc Any interactions are closely monitored	
	Salmonella	High	Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or	

	Escape	Low	nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them. When at events staff only to hold and guided interaction only	
Fiji banded iguana	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions
Chinese water dragon	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions
Blue collared lizards	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions

Chameleon	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Tortoise	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Corn snake (non - venomous)	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Royal python (non - venomous)	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		

Japanese rat snake (non - venomous)	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Breadlis python (non - venomous)	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Boa constrictor (non - venomous)	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		
Hognose (counted as non - venomous as rear fanged)	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 2, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	High		
	Escape	Low		

Pacman frog	Escape	Low	Frogs are not to be handled by the public and only confident and trained staff handle them (whilst wearing nitrile gloves)	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Bite	High	Only handler to hold frog.	Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Whites tree frogs	Escape	Low	Frogs are not to be handled by the public and only confident and trained staff handle them (whilst wearing nitrile gloves)	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Bite	High	Only handler to hold frog	Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Mossy frogs	Escape	Low	Frogs are not to be handled by the public and only confident and trained staff handle them (whilst wearing nitrile gloves)	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Bite	High	Only handler to hold frog	Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Milk frogs	Escape	Low	Frogs are not to be handled by the public and only confident and trained staff handle them (whilst wearing nitrile gloves)	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Bite	High	Only handler to hold frog	Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Togo toad	Escape	Low	Frogs are not to be handled by the public and only confident and trained staff handle them (whilst wearing nitrile gloves)	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Bite	High	Only handler to hold frog.	Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions

Tiger salamanders	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Not recommended for handling by children under 3, pregnant women or immune compromised persons. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Salmonella	High		Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low		Children to follow instructions
Hermit crabs	Cut from claw	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Children to handle smaller species of hermit crab. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Escape	Low		Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Katydids	Cut from spikes on the legs	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Escape	Low		Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Stick/leaf Insect	Cut from spikes on the legs	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Escape	Low		Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Praying Mantis	Bite, cut from forearms	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Escape	Low		Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions

Giant vinegaroon	Acetic acid	Medium	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures and ensure hands washed if sprayed straight after handling.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	
Tailless whip scorpion	Escape	Low	Enclosure is locked when out and only trained staff/handlers will hold.	Staff
Desert hairy scorpion (non-deadly venom)	Escape	Low	Trained staff will ensure padlock on and locked at all times.	Staff
	Venom	Medium	Scorpion is only to be handled by fully trained staff.	
Cockroach	Escape	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Millipede	Secrete fluid harmful to eyes or ingested. May stain hands.	High	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Secretion must be washed off immediately. Must not put in the mouth or eyes. Must NOT be handled by any person with a nut allergy.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	
Land snail	Escape	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Beetles	Escape	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions

Armoured cricket	Escape	Low	Handler will instruct on correct handling procedures. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Brazilian black tarantula (non-deadly venom)	Escape	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Handler will monitor animal behaviour continuously to ensure animal is not stressed or likely to bolt.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Venom	Medium	Tarantula does not come out if loud environment or at large events. If handled by public gloves must be worn, handler monitors animal's behaviour constantly to ensure no stress.	Children to follow instructions
	Urticating hairs	High	If tarantula shows signs of kicking hairs, they will not be handled.	
Green bottle blue tarantula (non-deadly venom)	Escape	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Handler will monitor animal behaviour continuously to ensure animal is not stressed or likely to bolt.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Venom	Medium	Tarantula does not come out if loud environment or at large events. Not to be handled by public or students. Staff only to handle with gloves if necessary	Children to follow instructions
	Urticating hairs	High	If tarantula shows signs of kicking hairs, they will not be handled.	
Chilean rose tarantula (non-deadly venom)	Escape	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Handler will monitor animal behaviour continuously to ensure animal is not stressed or likely to bolt.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present

	Venom	Medium	Tarantula does not come out if loud environment or at large events. If handled by public gloves must be worn, handler monitors animal's behaviour constantly to ensure no stress.	Children to follow instructions
	Urticating hairs	High	If tarantula shows signs of kicking hairs, they will not be handled.	
Sugar gliders	Bite/scratch	Low	Not handled by any members of the public. Staff only to handle-classed as a visual only animal.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Escape	Low	Animals to only be brought out by a staff member who is trained. To be shown only in enclosed spaces (not used for Van Experiences unless kept only in cage)	Accompanying adults present
	Salmonella	High	Not handled by any members of the public. Staff only to handle-classed as a visual only animal.	Children to follow instructions
Rabbits	Bite/scratch	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Children to follow instructions
Degu	Bite/scratch	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Children to follow instructions
Chinchillas	Bite/scratch	Low	Trained staff only to handle chinchillas. Placed into box and IF happy to do so, may get stroked, if not a visual only animal.	Animal handler Event planner/s
	Escape	Low	Trained staff only to handle chinchillas. Placed into box and IF happy to do so, may get stroked, if not a visual only animal.	Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions

Bird	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Psittacosis	High	Animals used for handling will get checked for the disease prior to going out.	
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	
Orange winged amazon parrot	Bite	High	Fully trained staff only to handle, no members of the public to interact	Fully trained staff
	Psittacosis	High	Fully trained staff only to handle, no members of the public to interact	
	Escape	Low	To wear harness if out of cage	
White capped pionous parrot	Bite	Medium	Fully trained staff only to handle, no members of the public to interact	Fully trained staff
	Psittacosis	High	Fully trained staff only to handle, no members of the public to interact	
	Escape	Low	Always in cage (visual only)	
Chicken	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Salmonella	high	No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	

Guinea pig	Bite/scratch	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel. Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Escape	Low		
Hedgehog	Bite/scratch Prick from quills	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely- fed by tongs only. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Escape	Low		
Hamster	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Escape	Low		
Gerbils	Bite	Low	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Escape	Low		

Last updated: 27/08/2026.

Updated and monitored by: Laura Jackson

Dogs (cockapoos)	Bite/scratch	Medium	Handler will instruct on how children/adults can interact with the animal safely. Handler to hold dog by the collar whilst younger children interact. Must remain on lead. Dogs go through regular training to ensure good behaviour/control. No food to be eaten prior to or during the event which would encourage biting or nibbling of the skin. If eating before, people must wash their hands or use hand gel.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Escape	Low	Handler will retrieve animals and secure them.	