

Risk Assessment for: Our Animal World (for public events and workshops)

Written by: Laura Jackson, director

On: 25/08/2026

Review on: 25/08/2027



Hazards	Hazard Risks	Who is at risk?	Risk Level	Control Measures	Responsibility
Handling Live Animals	Bites, scratches, animal secretions	All persons attending event Animal handler	Low	Animals are used to meeting the public and an individual risk assessment is available for each animal. Event organiser accepts responsibility for ensuring all participants and parent/ guardians of any person under the age of 18 has access to this and understand the risks. Verbal instructions given for each individual animal on how to interact with animals and any risks associated by animal handler. Safety signs displayed at public events. Verbal instructions given at the beginning of all sit down animal shows. Some animals are 'visual only' meaning only our trained staff/students are able to interact with them.	Animal handler Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
	Infection (i.e salmonella)	All persons attending event Animal handler	Low	Antibacterial hand gel used straight after handling animal. Instructions to wash hands after handling before eating. Mobile sink and anti-bacterial handwash supplied to venues without running water.	Animal handler Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions

				Verbal warning for persons not to put hands near eyes or mouth at beginning of session. Animals are checked regularly for parasites and signs of illness/ disease. Animal waste properly disposed of. Hand sanitiser used straight after every single animal- those who cannot use sanitiser either cannot touch or must wash their hands with anti-bacterial soap	
	Animal allergies/phobias	All persons attending event	Low	Event planners are responsible for notifying all other attendees of the: risk assessment, what animals they have requested, and whether they have allergies to animals, animal feed or phobias. Event planners may request animals not to attend due to phobias/allergies. Animal handler will make verbally clear no individual has to go near an animal they are not happy with. However animal handler will try all possible ways to encourage these person/s to be involved.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Child protection	Children	Children attending event	Low	We come in our Our Animal World uniform. Van has sign writing and graphics. Employed staff are DSB checked. Any students/volunteers that attend without DBS checks will stay with member of staff that is checked. There must be enough adults to supervise children/ groups during event.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions

Use of chemicals	Reaction/ side effect of chemical used by us	All persons attending event	Low	Disinfectant spray is used to clean animal waste. Antibacterial hand gel/ rub. Instructions indicate it is safe to use on all children under adult supervision. Contains bitter taste to prevent putting hands in mouth after application.	Animal handler Event planner/s Everyone to follow instructions
Use of equipment	Falling over/ tripping - Leaning on animal cages/ fences, tables, gazebo, table cloths	All persons attending event	Low	Signage displayed at events 'no running or leaning on fences or tables' Verbal instructions given at sit down events for appropriate behaviour.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions
Animal Welfare	Stress on the animals/ over handling/ Poor handling/ Loud noise's/ weather	The animals	Low	Each animal comes out for a specified time of no more than 15 minutes per hour. Staff are trained on how to instruct the public on how to stroke/ hold animals if applicable During busy events animals are visual only. It is under the handler's discretion to decide if an animal can come out to be stroked or not and if so, it will be in our animal handling station so numbers/interactions are easily monitored and controlled. There are age limits for specific species to prevent injury to the animal and the public. Some animals are visual only because they do not enjoy being handled by unknown people.	Animal handler Event planner/s Accompanying adults present Children to follow instructions

				Must have access to a power source for the van if the Van Experience, or a socket inside if inside a venue.	
Vehicle movement		Adults and children	Low	Access agreed prior to visit. Any restrictions and speed limits obeyed. Event organiser/Teacher to meet team on arrival. Hazard lights put on if moving through area with pedestrians.	
<i>For animal risks, please see Animal Specific Risk Assessment</i>					