

# Risk Assessment Template

1. Background Information			
<b>Workplace:</b>	Horses for health Redlands Inc.	<b>Date:</b>	06 March 2019
<b>Title of Assessment:</b>	Animal Assisted Experiences	<b>Name of person conducting assessment:</b>	Kevin Delaforce

## Activity scope

Client observation and handling of animals and animal remains such as bones or skins in non-laboratory or non-clinical settings as an activity. This includes, but is not limited to, riding horses, care for, pet, brush, wash, feed, Horses & livestock husbandry activities, collecting of frog spawn, and observation of animals in their natural surroundings or of exhibited animals.

## Mandatory/special requirements

Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted. Special requirements are to be considered in the planning and delivery of this activity.

If you are in charge of an animal, regardless of what you are using it for or how long it will be in your care, you have a [duty of care](#) to that animal and legal obligations under animal welfare legislation.

## Zoonotic Diseases

The vast majority of contact between animals and humans does not result in any illness. However, animals may carry a range of micro-organisms potentially harmful to humans without showing any signs of illness themselves. [Zoonotic diseases](#) can be spread by:

- direct contact through touching or handling animals or their carcasses, or animal bites and scratches
- indirect contact with animal faeces, blood and bodily fluids, aerosols, birth products or contact with contaminated objects, such as enclosures, animal environments, aquariums, food and water. Some animals present a higher risk of zoonoses because of increased shedding of harmful micro-organisms through their faeces and urine.

These include:

- birthing and pregnant animals
- new-born hooved animals (e.g. calves)

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- newly hatching chickens
- some reptiles and amphibians (e.g. snakes, lizards, frogs)
- animals that are stressed or unwell.

Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of contracting zoonoses and may suffer more severe symptoms (e.g. young children, immunocompromised individuals).

For comprehensive advice and precautionary measures about safe contact with animals, refer to [Animal contact guidelines](#).

## Risk Level

- **Low** risk: Activities with no contact or minimal contact with animals where the threat of injury, bites, stings or scratches being inflicted is minimal (e.g. observation of animals in their natural surroundings.); low impact care and handling of small domesticated animals; and handling of exhibited animals under supervision.
- **Medium** risk: Routine non-invasive husbandry procedures with low impact on the animal concerned (e.g. grooming, cleaning of cages, non-invasive measurement of body weight); working in environments with medium risk of transmission of zoonoses (e.g. dusty livestock yards); and handling of animals where injury requiring minor first aid treatment is possible.
- **High** risk: Equine Assisted Therapy / activities including riding, training, washing, brushing Horses.

## Minimum supervision requirements

- A trainer with competence (knowledge and skills) in the activity being undertaken and its potential hazards. Evidence of competence is to be provided in the form of a signed Affidavit stating the providers competence & listing prior experience & or prior employers.

## Minimum qualifications for supervisors

- An adult other than a registered teacher/ Psychologist / Therapist with competence (knowledge and skills) in the activity being undertaken, working under established safety procedures.

## Minimum requirements for equipment/facilities

- Facilities (e.g. location, cages, yards, pens) that contain and safeguard the welfare of the animal/s and are sufficiently large enough to allow the animal freedom of movement and freedom from discomfort.
- Containment and restraint equipment (e.g. fencing, cages, traps, collars, harnesses, leashes) must be properly maintained, suitable for the particular animal, and used as intended.
- Areas where animals are handled are free from obstructions that pose a hazard to the handlers and animals, and the surface and terrain are suitable for use.
- Suitable facilities or equipment to dispose of animal wastes and effluent hygienically.

Protective clothing (e.g. gloves, masks) and suitable footwear as relevant.

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2. Risk Assessment				
Identify and list Hazards		List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating	List Additional Controls (if any - where current controls are not adequately managing the level of risk)
2	<b>Biological material</b>	<p>Ensure staff and students are aware of the potential disease transmission risks associated with the animal or animal part being handled.</p> <p>Implement appropriate handling and protective measures relevant to the route of transmission of potential zoonoses as outlined in Appendix 1 of Animal contact guidelines.</p> <p>Establish and follow hygiene guidelines when handling animals, their food and water, and when cleaning out cages and pens.</p> <p>Ensure animals, especially those in the wild, are handled as little as possible, using protective equipment (e.g. leather gloves) when appropriate.</p> <p>Ensure all animals are screened thoroughly for parasites (e.g. ticks and fleas) and students are warned of the potential hazards, symptoms and course of remedial action.</p>	<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Document risks and controls in regular planning documents.</li> <li>•Manage risk through regular planning processes OR complete this</li> </ul>
3	<b>Environmental conditions</b>	<p>Remain aware of the allergen and disease risks associated with dust, dry matter and airborne organisms (e.g. Q fever).</p> <p>Assess, and ensure staff and students are aware of, the likely impact of environmental conditions (e.g. noise, adverse weather) on the behaviour of a particular animal.</p>	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Manage risk through regular planning processes.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Hazardous chemicals</b>	<b>As relevant, ensure students are instructed in the appropriate storage and administration of veterinary medicines and chemical treatments.</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Manage risk through regular planning processes.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Student considerations</b>	Assess the capacity of individual students to handle and restrain an animal using lowstress handling techniques.	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Manage risk through regular planning processes.</li> </ul>

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Identify and list Hazards	List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating	List Additional Controls (if any - where current controls are not adequately managing the level of risk)
	<p>Establish a procedure in case an animal escapes or is unexpectedly encountered in the field or school grounds. This procedure would relate to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- anticipated class reaction</li> <li>- location (e.g. classroom, farmyard or bush)</li> <li>- capture equipment</li> <li>- particular animal or type of animal.</li> </ul>		

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**1. Consequence** - Evaluate the consequences of a risk occurring according to the ratings in the top row

Descriptor	Level	Definition
Insignificant	1	No injury
Minor	2	Injury/ ill health requiring first aid
Moderate	3	Injury/ill health requiring medical attention
Major	4	Injury/ill health requiring hospital admission
Severe	5	Fatality

**2. Likelihood** - Evaluate the **likelihood** of an incident occurring according to the ratings in the left hand column

Descriptor	Level	Definition
Rare	1	May occur somewhere, sometime (“once in a life time / once in a hundred years”)
Unlikely	2	May occur somewhere within the Association over an extended period
Possible	3	May occur several times across the Association over a period
Likely	4	May be anticipated multiple times over a period of time May occur once every few repetitions of the activity or event
Almost Certain	5	Prone to occur regularly It is anticipated for each repetition of the activity of event

**3. Risk Matrix** – Using the matrix calculate the level of **risk** by finding the intersection between the likelihood and the consequences

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost Certain	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

## 4. Risk Level/Rating and Actions

Descriptor	Definition
<b>Extreme:</b>	Notify <b>Workplace Manager and/or Management OHS Nominee</b> immediately. Corrective actions should be taken immediately. Cease associated activity.
<b>High:</b>	Notify <b>Workplace Manager and/or Management OHS Nominee</b> immediately. Corrective actions should be taken within 48 hours of notification.
<b>Medium:</b>	Notify <b>Nominated employee, HSR / OHS Committee</b> . Nominated employee, OHS Representative / OHS Committee is to follow up that corrective action is taken within 7 days.
<b>Low</b>	Notify <b>Nominated employee, HSR / OHS Committee</b> . Nominated employee, HSR / OHS Committee is to follow up that corrective action is taken within a reasonable time.

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