

Animals in school risk assessment

Lyndhurst Primary School

Assessment conducted by: <u>Tom Turnham</u>	Job title: <u>Headteacher</u>	Covered by this assessment:
Date of assessment: <u>26/09/2026</u>	Review interval: <u>Sep 27</u>	Date of next review: <u>Sep 28</u>

Related documents

[Health and Safety Policy](#), [First Aid Policy](#), [Animals in School Policy](#), [COSHH Policy](#), [Behaviour Policy](#), [Infection Control Policy](#), [Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy](#).

Risk rating		Likelihood of occurrence		
		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	Major Causes major physical injury, harm or ill health.	High (H)	H	Medium (M)
	Severe Causes physical injury or illness requiring first aid.	H	M	Low (L)
	Minor Causes physical or emotional discomfort.	M	L	L

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Awareness of policies and procedures	<u>L</u>	- Staff members are aware of and adhere to guidance and legislation including, but not limited to, the following: <u>The Pet Animals Act 1951</u> <u>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</u> <u>The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976</u> <u>The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974</u> <u>The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986</u> <u>The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999</u> <u>The Animal Welfare Act 2006</u> - All staff and relevant stakeholders are aware of all relevant policies and procedures including, but not limited to, the following: <u>Health and Safety Policy</u> <u>First Aid Policy</u> ~~<u>Animals in School Policy</u>~~ <u>COSHH Policy</u> <u>Behaviour Policy</u> ~~<u>Infection Control Policy</u>~~ ~~<u>Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy</u>~~ - The school makes provisions for the welfare of any animal it is responsible for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. - A risk assessment is conducted by the <u>headteacher</u> and a designated member of staff prior to the arrival of animals to ensure that all risks are manageable and controlled. - An appropriate and detailed protocol is implemented that ensures the wellbeing of the animals, and the health and safety of others, for the duration of its visit. - A named individual is responsible for the welfare of the animals at all times.	<u>YY</u>	<u>Headteacher</u> <u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u> <u>XX.XX.XX</u>	<u>LM</u>

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		- The school ensures that a proper care programme is available for each animal, establishing the maintenance of minimum welfare standards. - Staff have an awareness of safety issues relating to animals. - Staff are familiar with, and understand, the signs which indicate that pupils may be unsafe around animals. - Staff report animal safety concerns in line with the school's reporting procedure outlined in the Animals in School Protocol. - Pupils adhere to the Health and Safety Policy and other relevant policies when around animals. - Pupils report animal safety incidents and concerns in line with the procedures within the Animals in School Protocol. - Appropriate safety measures are implemented by staff members when directed by the headteacher. - The headteacher conducts annual reviews of this risk assessment to ensure it is up-to-date.				
Handling animals	<u>L</u>	- Teachers brief pupils regarding any potential hazards and supervise pupils at all times during handling sessions. - Pupils are taught by staff the correct way to hold each animal. - Teachers have knowledge of how to handle animals. - Pupils and staff wash their hands after handling animals to prevent the possibility of contracting infections. - Staff members who are pregnant avoid handling animals. - Animals are chosen for their temperament and no venomous animals are used. - Disinfectant is offered to treat individuals in the event of being bitten by an animal. - Trained first aiders are on site and first aid equipment is readily available. - If an animal acts aggressively, it is removed immediately.	<u>Y</u>	Headteacher	Ongoing	<u>L</u>

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		- Animals are provided with non-handling time to reduce stress that could cause aggressive behaviour. - Classroom doors and windows are closed whilst animal-handling sessions take place. - Signs are put on doors informing individuals to keep out whilst handling take place. - Animals are housed in secure carriers while being transported. - Animals are introduced to pupils in a supportive environment so pupils can overcome their fears safely. - Pupils are invited to handle animals and not obliged to during sessions. - Any individuals showing signs of extreme fear are taken to one side by school staff and provided with support and assistance. - Animals which are nervous, nocturnal or prone to biting or scratching will only be observed and not touched.				
~~{For schools with snails only}~~ Snails	<u>L</u>	- When handling snails, they are picked up carefully by the shell. - Hands are wet upon handling and the snail is placed on the palm of the handler's hand. - Pupils' and staff members' hands are washed before and after holding. - Great care is taken in moving young snails who are particularly fragile. - Snails are handled by pupils and staff members while seated. - Movements are slow and deliberate while handling the snail, so as not to startle the snail. - The snail's enclosure is cleaned regularly and maintained at a suitable temperature.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>
Allergies	<u>L</u>	Any injuries sustained to pupils or staff whilst looking after animals are reported to the <u>headteacher</u> immediately and are be dealt with in accordance with the school's <u>First Aid Policy</u>.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>

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		- Pupils with known allergies to specific animals have restricted access to those that may trigger a response. - The nominated school first aider administers any necessary medication, including adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs), to pupils known to have an allergy to any of the animals.				
~~[For schools with farm animals only]~~ Farm animals	<u>L</u>	- Farm animals are not housed on the school site unless neighbours are happy for the school to do so. - Farm animals are registered with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. - Experienced staff members are responsible for ensuring housing, feeding, care and handling requirements are met. - Farm animals will only be kept if the school has suitable housing and/or fields to keep the animals away from the noisy educational environment.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>
Phobias	<u>L</u>	- Pupils or staff members with a known phobia to specific animals have restricted access to them. - Pupils or staff members with a phobia will not be encouraged to participate in handling sessions.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>
Animal health	<u>L</u>	- Arrangements are made to ensure animals are cared for during holidays and weekends. - An experienced member of staff is involved in ensuring housing, feeding, care and handling requirements are met. - Animals are prevented from contact with sources of disease or contamination, such as wild rodents. - A staff member is designated to be responsible for, in conjunction with the attending vet, the general health of animals. - Cages and tanks are kept clean in accordance with an agreed and appropriate schedule depending on the animal type and size of the cage/tank.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>
<u>[Updated]</u> Housing and environment	<u>L</u>	All animals will have access to suitable shelter at all times.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>

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		- All buildings and/or shelters will be adequately ventilated, whilst ensuring animals are protected from draughts. - Each animal house will be designed, sited and constructed to provide a suitable environment, including any special requirement for exercise or social contact for the species to be housed, and will incorporate facilities sufficient for the activities carried out within it. - Specific recommendations for space allowances for each species will be sought from relevant agricultural and/or welfare organisations. - All animals have access to a comfortable, solid-based lying area, with plenty of suitable bedding material that is replenished regularly to ensure that it remains dry. - Any fencing used will be strong enough to contain the species in question, frequently inspected and maintained, and must not have the potential to cause injury to the animals. - Farm animals are given company of their own kind and are not isolated from the sight, sound or smell of other farm animals. - Poultry is given access to a suitable area for exercise, with enough space to ensure that they can move around freely and express their natural behaviour patterns. - Species that are incompatible, for example, predator and prey, or animals requiring different environmental conditions are not housed in the same room or, in some cases, within a distance where scent or sound can be detected. - Regular maintenance checks are carried out of aquariums and terrariums by a competent person to ensure that such hazards are effectively controlled. [Updated] Fish and other aquatic animals are properly looked after in accordance with advice received from the supplier, including undertaking regular checks on water cleanliness, PH levels, conditioning and temperature.				

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		Where school-based animals are taken home by pupils, a suitable home-school agreement is devised to encourage the observation of the same principles at home as those governing their husbandry in schools – both from the perspective of pupil safety and animal welfare.				
Cleaning and maintenance	<u>L</u>	- The designated member of staff washes their hands before and after cleaning animal enclosures and tanks. - A written cleaning rota is used to ensure each animal is cleaned and cared for to a specified standard. - The designated member of staff will wear personal protective equipment, such as plastic gloves, at all times, when carrying out cleaning duties. - After removing soiled litter material, cages are scrubbed with hot water and a suitable liquid detergent. - Detergents are not used in aquariums and terrariums unless free of inhabitants. - Solid litter is incinerated or sealed in strong plastic bags and placed with other waste in dustbins. - Appropriate cleaning materials are available at all times, including a shovel, bucket, stiff brush and detergent cleaner. - The detergent cleaner, as well as any other chemicals purchased, is checked in accordance with the school's COSHH Policy to ensure that they are not hazardous to the animals or to the members of staff using them. - Contaminated surfaces are properly washed and disinfected. - Water and food feeders are cleaned on a weekly basis to avoid any build-up of green algae which can be harmful to animals. - When cleaning each animal house, each member of staff ensures that it is weather and predator-proof, and checks for any repairs that are needed.	<u>Y</u>	Headteacher	Ongoing	<u>L</u>

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		- Any works required will be reported to the <u>site manager</u>, who will make appropriate repairs or will report to the <u>headteacher</u> if new equipment is needed. - Cleaning routines and arrangements for the disposal of animal waste will be carried out with due regard for good hygiene standards. - Pregnant staff and those with suppressed immunity will exercise particular caution and avoid all contact with animal waste products.				
Animal food	<u>L</u>	- A written care programme is created for each species of animal, which is implemented by the designated, trained member of staff, and communicated to all other members of staff. - The <u>headteacher</u> establishes a rota for looking after the animals before, during and after the school day, as well as during holidays and weekends. This rota is given to all members of staff and posted in the <u>school office</u>. - The school is aware that the type and quantity of food required varies not only with species, but also with age, stage of production (e.g. lactating females have different requirements from other adults) and breed. - The dietary requirements of each type of animal are ascertained by consulting a vet or a livestock nutrition consultant. - Animal food is sourced from a reputable supplier, to ensure it is of appropriate nourishment suitable to their age and breed. - A dry, vermin-proof container is used to store the different animals' food, keeping it dry and preventing waste. - The appropriate food source is supplied, depending on the animal, by a member of staff and/or pupils supervised by a member of staff. - All animals have continuous access to a supply of clean, fresh drinking water.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>

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		- Suitable troughs and other containers are supplied for the animals using them (e.g. the correct height and dimension to allow easy access). - An adequate supply of food is available at all times to avoid any drought of food.				
Infestation and disease	L	- A veterinary health plan is developed in conjunction with the attending vet in order to arrange the following: - Response to, and provision for, seriously ill or deceased animals - Any other procedures necessary for the maintenance of the animals' health - Treatment for prevention of external and internal parasites, including vaccinations - Any additional check-ups as required - Monthly visits and check-ups - A staff member is designated to be responsible for, in conjunction with the attending vet, the general health of animals, including keeping up with vaccinations and ensuring the appropriate animals have been treated for worms and fleas. - Good hygiene, including hand washing is required at all times, especially if aquatic reptiles, such as terrapins, are kept. ~~[Schools keeping reptiles only] Pupils under the age of five will not have contact with reptiles or the environment in which the reptiles live or exercise.~~ - In the case of infestation or disease, appropriate treatment is sought immediately and the animal(s) is moved into a separate enclosure. - To prevent disease spreading the diseased animal will be isolated from other animals to prevent it from spreading.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>

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		In the case that an animal is found to have any disease which is contagious to humans, the <u>headteacher</u> informs parents immediately and the infected animal is removed from the premises for appropriate treatment.				
Animals brought in by pupils	<u>L</u>	- Suitable arrangements are made in advance for the wellbeing of animals for the short time they are to be on the premises. - Animals are housed properly and separately whilst on the premises and any containers used to transport them are appropriate and retain the animal securely. - Animals that present unacceptable risks will not be brought into the school. - Wild birds and mammals from the 'wild' will not be brought into the school directly as they may be harbouring diseases or parasites transmissible to humans.	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>L</u>