

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HANDLING ANIMALS

Operations/Work Activities covered by this assessment:	Animal visits		
Site Address/Location:		Department/Service/Team:	
Notes- We (Us and You) must adhere to the Industry Code of Practice on Preventing or controlling ill health from animal contact at visitor attractions.			
Document attached			

Hazards Considered (under routine, non-routine & emergency conditions)	Who might be harmed and how	Existing Control Measures:	Risk Rating			Further action <i>Consider hierarchy of controls i.e. elimination, substitution, engineering controls, signage/warning and/or administrative controls, (PPE as a last resort)</i>	Actions		
			Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating		who (Name)	when (Date)	complete (Date)
Equipment & Setup	Staff, volunteers, visitors, residents	<p>All equipment used at visits including, but not limited to, fencing, pens, trailer, gazebo, lap trays, buckets, lead ropes, poop scoop to be inspected prior to visit to ensure safety.</p> <p>Any incidents or need for repair recorded in the diaries.</p> <p>Ensure visit locations are safe for all with no broken glass, loud music/sounds, excessive lighting, inflatables, trampolines, certain decorations or toxic plants</p>	Medium	low	low	If equipment substandard it will be replaced prior to visit or swapped if visit is already taking place.	CMF staff		

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Disease Such as but not limited to- Salmonella spp. Orf Q fever Ringworm Campylobacter spp. Leptospirosis Toxoplasmosis Chlamydia abortus Cryptosporidium parvum VTEC (including E. coli O157)	Staff, volunteers, visitors, residents	Animals to arrive clean with no known infection. Regular house keeping of animal access areas with animal waste removed as soon as possible.	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating	If signs of illness or disease appear during session, animal to be removed immediately from the session and increased advice on hand washing to people that have had contact. This may mean early termination of the visit	CMF staff	Ongoing			
		All waste cleared up following visit. No disinfection is offered – organiser is welcome to do this if they wish				Hand washing before and after session required.. See industry code of practice.				CMF staff	
		All visitors asked to wash their hands before and after contact with animals and instructed not to put their hands in mouths or to eat before washing their hands. Signage supports this				Hand gel accessible but not a suitable alternative to hand washing					Adults supervising young people
		Hand gel provided and all visitors recommended to wash their hands with soap and water immediately after touching animals.									
		For public events where food areas are in close proximity to the animal area, our mobile Sink provided is provided where other hand washing is not immediately accessible. It will be the venue's responsibility to ensure CMF is provided with enough water for all guests as well as a drain to dispose of waste water.									
		Animals to be out of the way so that they are avoidable to anyone who is not prepared to wash their hands etc		low							

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Allergic Reactions	Staff, visitors, volunteers	<p>Do any visitors have any known allergic reactions to animals, bedding, feed (nuts)?</p> <p>Any person with known allergy should stay away from the animals. Animals should only be handled in location such person does not need to access.</p> <p>Visitors given strict instruction to not eat any of the food intended for the animals.</p> <p>Children instructed at start of session not to put hands in their mouths or eat during the session.</p> <p>A certain level of personal responsibility is expected. Adults are to be responsible for anyone in their care. Warning signs will also be in place and risk assessment available to anyone who wishes to read it</p>				<p>If anyone should show signs of an allergic reaction to the animals/activity then they will be removed from the animal session, appropriate first aid will be given and next of kin will be informed.</p> <p>Signs of allergic reactions can include but are not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sneezing and an itchy, runny or blocked nose (allergic rhinitis) itchy, red, watering eyes (conjunctivitis) wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath and a cough a raised, itchy, red rash (hives) swollen lips, tongue, eyes or face tummy pain, feeling sick, vomiting or diarrhoea dry, red and cracked skin <p>Antihistamines can be provided if required and assistance to call an ambulance and administer epipen</p>	everyone	Ongoing	

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Bites and Scratches	Staff, visitors, volunteers	<p>Animals require sufficient training prior to visit to minimise risk. Daily monitoring of animals ensures animals are happy and relaxed in themselves before exposing them to potentially stressful experience. Means we can monitor their training.</p> <p>The animals' happiness and stress levels are to be closely monitored and Chloe's Mobile Farm staff reserve the right to refuse any element of the visit, including taking breaks when required or refusing to access to certain situations.</p> <p>The happiness of the animal will come before everything else</p> <p>Animals to only be stroked/handled/fed with supervision of animal handler. CMF staff member supervising animals at all times.</p> <p>Signage in place to warn public how to behave around the animals to reduce the risk</p>	low	low	low	<p>Are arrangements in place for first aid e.g. to wash all animal bites and scratches and to seek medical advice if in doubt about the risk of infection?</p> <p>first aid kit available Chloe, Sally and Ciaran First Aid Trained (Emergency first aid at work)</p> <p>Unhappy or aggressive animals to be put away. Actions taken to minimise animals distress and therefore likelihood to cause harm</p> <p>Persons not abiding by rules and causing distress to animals will be asked to leave</p>	Event organiser	Ongoing	
Disposal of Waste	Staff, visitors	<p>All animal waste to be removed by animal handler where possible.</p> <p>Wipes and disinfectant carried in case required however we do not disinfect the area where the animals were set up</p>				Disinfectant should be accessible for if required and extra cleaning may be required after the session	CMF staff	ongoing	

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Unpredictable animal Behaviour	Staff, Visitors	<p>Animal staff all experienced in animal handling.</p> <p>Booking form gives the opportunity for organisers to let us know of any potentially stressful situations for the animals so that we can be prepared, select the best animals for the role and work with the organisers to ensure this does not impact the animals happiness.</p> <p>Animals to only be stroked/handled/fed with supervision of animal handler. CMF staff member supervising animals at all times.</p>	Medium	low	low	<p>Animals to be supervised at all times</p> <p>Animal behaviour and happiness to be closely monitored by staff throughout session</p>	CMF staff	On going	
CMF staff	visitors	All adult staff working unsupervised are DBS checked and trained with CMF policies and procedures	Medium	low	low				

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Infection	Pregnant women	Pregnant women susceptible to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chlamydia • toxoplasmosis • listeriosis • Q fever NHS advice to pregnant women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not help deliver lambs (or calves or kids) • do not milk ewes • avoid contact with aborted (miscarried) or newborn lambs and with the afterbirth, birthing fluids or contaminated materials, such as bedding • ensure your partner washes thoroughly after contact with ewes that are lambing • clothing worn during lambing should be washed separately from other washing 	Medium	Low	Low	We believe the risk to pregnant women comes from pregnant sheep and goats, their new born offspring, birthing fluids and the milk of lactating animals. We do not breed animals ourselves so on the whole this will not be a risk. We do sometimes get orphan lambs/goat kids so the risk from these is possibly greater and CMF advice would be for pregnant women to avoid touching them.	All	Ongoing	
						We do have a goat that sometimes comes in to milk, but she does not need to have been pregnant to come in to milk. The risk from her is unknown and therefore advise is to avoid touching her and the goats she lives with.			

ADDITIONAL SITE SPECIFIC HAZARDS NOT COVERED IN THE GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT (ABOVE)

Are there any other foreseeable hazards associated with this activity?											
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Risk assessment completed by Chloe Iles 22/04/2022. Updated march 2026

** To determine if your control measures are adequate, that is, have you have done everything reasonably practicable to protect people from harm, compare your control measures with good practice. Another common approach of evaluating risk involves working out the risk level by categorising the likelihood of the harm and the potential severity of harm using the matrix below. The risk level determines which risks should be tackled first.*

Potential Severity of Harm	High (e.g. death or paralysis, long term serious ill health)	Medium	High	High
	Medium (an injury requiring further medical assistance or is a RIDDOR incident)	Low	Medium	High
	Low (minor injuries requiring first aid)	Low	Low	Medium
	Low (The event is unlikely to happen)	Medium (It is fairly likely it will happen)	High (It is likely to happen)	
	Likelihood of Harm Occurring			

Risk Definitions	
Low	Controls are adequate, no further action required, but ensure controls are monitored and any changes reassessed.
Medium	Consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be reduced using the hierarchy of control measures. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time periods. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained and monitored for adequacy.
High	Substantial improvements should be made to reduce the level to an acceptable level. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently with a defined period. Consider suspending or restricting the activity, or applying interim risks controls. Activities in this category must have a written method statement/safe system of work and arrangements must be made to ensure that the controls are maintained and monitored for adequacy.