

Mercia Learning Trust

Woodlands Primary School and Tiny Seeds Nursery

Activity:	Petting of school pets (Guinea Pigs)				
Assessment carried out by:	Lauren Johnstone	Date:	01.11.21	Date of Review:	01.06.22

Common risks and examples of control measures have been provided but you should adapt it (text highlighted in yellow) to reflect the type of visit, your school's context and the risks and control measures taken in your school.

Key: 1 – Low Risk 3 – Medium Risk 5 – High Risk

HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED AND HOW?	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES; WHAT ARE YOU ALREADY DOING?	WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS NECESSARY?	ACTION BY WHO?	ACTION BY WHEN?	COMPLETED	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)
Guinea Pig biting	Staff, children and handlers Bites, nips, breaking of skin, cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are taught how to handle Guinea Pigs correctly • Children are monitored by an adult or a trained 'Guinea Pig Handler' when petting them • Children are sat down when holding/petting the Guinea Pigs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited numbers on how many can hold the Guinea Pigs at once • First Aid kit ready 	Lauren Johnstone	December 2022	01.12.21 L.Johnstone	Low
Guinea Pigs becoming distressed and unpredictable	The Guinea Pigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tolerance of rough handling - Noise sensitivity - Reaction to stressful situations - Being around large numbers of young 		Lauren Johnstone	December 2022	01.12.21 L.Johnstone	Low

		<p>children in unusual environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Temperament regularly assessed ● Organisation has public liability insurance ● Parents/Carers have been informed of the visit and the extent of the interaction and given their permission; and ● Opportunity for pupils to not take part in the activity if requested by the parent 					
Poor hygiene	Staff and pupils infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good hygiene practices followed ● All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands before and after interaction with animals ● Staff and handlers (under adult supervision) regularly clean the home ● Guinea Pigs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas ● Pupils/staff not to consume food when interacting with animals 	<p>Marie to add fresh food/water daily</p> <p>Toni and Helen to wash out cage weekly</p>	<p>Marie Smith</p> <p>Toni Martin and Helen Shephard</p>	<p>01.12.22</p> <p>Daily</p> <p>Weekly</p>	<p>01.12.22</p> <p>L.Johnstone</p>	<p>Low</p>

Allergies	Staff and pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We seek parental permission for children to interact with Guinea Pigs ● Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies ● Any reactions are recorded and reported to parents/cares immediately ● All class teachers and Guinea Pig Handlers to have permission forms 		Saram Moore-Billam	December 2022	01.12.22 SMB	Low
Phobias	Staff and pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We tell parents and children about the visit in advance ● Contact with Guinea Pigs are optional ● Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia ● Communication between school and home before and after activities is in place 	Parents/Carers may wish to come in to school to meet the animals with the children to prepare them	Sam Herring	December 2022	01.12.22 S.Herring	Low
Pupils becoming distressed/ anxious which may create a stressful	Staff and pupils May create a stressful situation for the Guinea Pigs which may act unpredictable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Permission slips received from all pupils participating liability insurance ● Alternative activity for pupils not participating 	Guinea Pig Handlers to seek adult support if a child becomes anxious or upset Parents to be informed to check whether they	Lauren Johnstone	December 2022	01.12.22 L.Johnstone	Low

<p>situation for pupils and the Guinea Pig</p>	<p>causing bites/scratching or being dropped</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupils informed of how to behave around Guinea Pigs prior to visit. This should reflect the age group of the children. Small manageable groups of pupils being brought to meet and greet the dog ● Supervisors to be vigilant of pupils and what steps to take if a pupil does become distressed or anxious; and ● Agreed actions in place with organisation that will be taken if the Guinea Pig begins to show distress/anxiety 	<p>want to change permission slip information</p>				
<p>Children misbehaving</p>	<p>Children, Guinea Pigs, staff Guinea Pigs getting hurt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave ● School staff are present at all time during petting sessions ● School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset Guinea Pigs ● Guinea Pigs are safe and secure in their cage and area of school 	<p>Children with specific SEND or behavioural difficulties to be support with 1:1 adult and monitored carefully. Staff to speak to parent/carer about previous animal experiences before making the decision to pet Guinea Pigs.</p>	<p>Hannah Morgan</p>	<p>Dec 2021</p>	<p>01.12.22 H.Morgan</p>	<p>Low</p>

<p>Sickness/ ill health of Guinea Pigs</p>	<p>Guinea Pigs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guinea Pigs remain in a cage, inside the school building during the winter. ● Their cage is not in direct sunlight or near a radiator. ● Their cage is in a calm, quiet area. ● Guinea Pigs have a safe cage that will keep them warm and in shade during the summer (when they are outside) ● Guinea Pigs taken home with a member of staff during weekends and holidays ● Guinea Pigs taken to vets if they become unwell 	<p>Toni and Helen to take Guinea Pigs to vets if required</p>	<p>Lauren Johnstone</p>	<p>Dec 2021</p>	<p>01.12.22 L.Johnstone</p>	<p>Low</p>
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