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| **Risk Assessment**  **(OSM)** | **Animal Friend** | **Date of risk assessment** | **21st September 2025** | **Name of person doing this risk assessment** | **Lisa Roy** |
| **Category**  **(OSM)** | **Activities** | **Date of next review** | 20th September 2027 |

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| **What hazard have you identified?**  **What are the risks from it?** | **Who is at risk?** | **How are the risks already controlled?**  **What extra controls are needed?** | **What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?** |
| Overexcitement and not following rules or instructions leading to injury | Young people  Leaders | * Section code of conduct in place to set clear expectations of behaviour. * Explain the activity clearly using age-appropriate language. * Monitor the mood level throughout the activity. * Have a clear location for those who do not want to participate |  |
| Animal Bites / Scratches | Young people  Leaders | * Young people briefed on handling rules * Small groups of young people around each animal so as not to cause distress * Only handle animals deemed safe for children * Animals held or touched under supervision * Monitor activity carefully and do not hesitate to stop activity if the animal is getting distressed |  |
| Allergic reactions | Young people  Leaders | * Check allergy information on OSM beforehand * Avoid animals known to trigger allergies * Have first aid kit and emergency contacts ready |  |
| Animal stress leaing to unpredictable behaviour | Young people  Leaders | * Provide quiet, calm environment with small groups of young people * Limit handling time per young person * Limit time slot for session so animals get a rest * Handler monitors animal stress signs |  |
| Hygeine issues e.g. zoonotic diseases | Young people  Leaders | * Handwashing before and after contact * No food during or just after handling * Use hand sanitiser if no soap/water * Clean surfaces after activity |  |
| Escape of animals | Animals | * Secure indoor space * Animals kept in suitable containers when not handled * Handler responsible for containment |  |
| Slips/Trips (due to equipment or animal mess) | Young people  Leaders | * Keep area clear of trip hazards * Clean any animal mess immediately * Supervise movement in activity area |  |
| Emotional distress (fear of animals) | Young people  Leaders | * Inform parents ahead of session * Young people can opt out of any part of the activity * Observe reactions and offer alternative activity if required |  |

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