

# WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR GUINEA PIGS

Name of Assessor: Lisa Harrison

Assessor's Signature:



Date April 2023

Activity/ Process/ Operation	What are the Hazards to Health and Safety	What Risks do they pose and to whom?	Risk Level H/M/L	What precautions have been taken to reduce the risk?	Risk Level Achieved H/M/L	What further action is needed to reduce the risk
Keeping Guinea Pigs						
Handling	Risk of germs. Risk to animal.	Germs from the animal. Risk to all.	M	Children shown the correct way to wash their hands thoroughly.		
	Risk of bites and scratches.	Scratching or biting. A risk to all.	M	Children shown how to handle the Guinea Pigs properly. First Aid will be administered if needed.		
	Dropping the Guinea Pigs	Risk to Guinea Pig.	L	Children to be given a box to handle the Guinea Pigs over. Children to sit down close to the box when handling.		
	Allergic to Guinea Pigs.	Risk to asthmatics and all people with allergies.	L	All parents/carers informed that the Guinea Pigs are to be removed if children have allergies.		
Feeding	Keeping food fresh.	Stale or decaying food – smells.	L	Food monitored and changed regularly. Food kept in an airtight container.		

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<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Handling Guinea Pig waste.</b>	<b>Risk of germs and unhygienic waste to all handling.</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Animals to be cleaned once a week. Children and adults to wear gloves. Children to be supervised. Creation of dust to be kept to a minimum. Spray disinfectant to be used only by the adult.</b>		
<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Care at weekends.</b>	<b>Risk to Guinea Pigs.</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Guinea Pigs to go home with a school adult only. Handling to be maintained. All above precautions to be followed by the adult in charge.</b>		

# GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING AN ASSESSMENT

## DEFINITIONS :-

**HAZARD** – An activity where there is potential for harm to be caused.

**RISK** – The likelihood of harm being realised.

1. Identify an activity, process or operation where there is potential for injury or damage. Consider whether it is essential for the activity to continue. i.e. without the hazard there is no risk.
2. Identify the hazards within the activity. i.e. using machinery, confined spaces, working at height, electricity, manual handling, lone working etc. Under normal circumstances everyday activities such as crossing the road or walking up/down stairs do not need to be considered.
3. Determine the risks involved and what type of incident is anticipated, considering who and how many people will be affected. i.e. contact with moving/sharp equipment, asphyxiation, falls, electrocution, back injury, violence/abuse etc.
4. Estimate the risk level without the benefit of any control measures.  
Risk = severity x likelihood  
  
HIGH - certain or near certain that harm will result in serious injury/damage.  
MEDIUM - harm will probably occur frequently with minor injury/damage.  
LOW - it is unlikely that harm will be caused and the outcome would result in very minor injury/damage.
5. High and medium risk levels will require control measures to reduce the risk level to as low as is reasonably practicable. This could be achieved by: Guarding, Safety Procedures/Working Practices, Specialist Training, Mechanical Assistance, Contracting Out etc.  
Personnel Protective Equipment should only be considered, as the last resort, if the above controls cannot achieve a low risk level.
6. Re- assess the risk level considering the effect of the control measures.
7. Some of the control measures may be suitable for immediate action to reduce the risk level, but in some cases further more permanent action may be required to achieve long term levels of low risk.
8. Where there is potential for the person's health to be affected health surveillance may be required. This should be recorded.
9. A procedure should be developed for the necessary action to take in the event of an emergency.
10. All assessments should be dated, recorded and reviewed periodically.

**RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE INTENDED TO ACHIEVE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WITH SAFE SYSTEMS OF WORK THAT WILL PROTECT EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH THE WORK**