

General Risk Assessment

Name of Task/risk	School Pet: Guinea Pigs
Date of Task/risk being undertaken	23 rd November 2023
Risk assessment written by	Stacey Gillmore
Class undertaking the task/exposed to the risk	Whole School (every class)
Number of Pupils	173

Risk Evaluation Matrix

SEVERITY	Catastrophe	5	5	10	15	20	25
	Major	4	4	8	12	16	20
	Moderate	3	3	6	9	12	15
	Minor	2	2	4	6	8	10
	Insignificant	1	1	2	3	4	5
Catastrophe		STOP					
Unacceptable		Urgent Action					
Undesirable		Action					
Acceptable		Monitor					
Desirable		No Action					
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Occasional	Likely	Frequent	
		LIKELIHOOD					

Hazard Identified	Consequences and group at risk	Likelihood	Severity	Total	Control Measures	Who will be responsible for carrying out checks	When will checks made?	Revised		
								Likelihood	Severity	Total
Scratches, bites, nips etc	Guinea Pigs: being dropped Children & adults: being bitten, skin broken, bleeding	3	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children taught how to safely hold and look after Guinea Pigs to limit animals becoming stressed. Adults will ensure that Guinea pigs are calm before being picked up. If guinea pigs are being carried from one location to another over a distance they should be transferred into a small box to ensure their safety. Scratches, nips and biting cannot be avoided altogether. Appropriate first aid precautions and training in place. Children only allowed to handle any animal under staff supervision. Children warned not to put fingers through bars. Guinea Pigs were selected for their calm temperament. 	Adult supervising.	Daily	2	1	2
Safety and care of animals	Guinea pigs: being harmed, unclean environment, not enough access to food and water	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children to understand high expectations regarding their behaviour around the guinea pigs. The Nurture team or hosting class teaching team will check the guinea pigs daily for signs of stress. signs of stress or illness: weight loss hiding- isolating itself from the other guinea pig and the children, seems overly nervous, sleeping more than normal, hair loss, poor appetite. 	Staff and children	Daily	2	3	6

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nurture team or hosting class teaching team will lead the cleaning and care (food, water, grooming) of the Guinea Pigs. Signs of good health: agile, clear and bright eyes, clean nose, clean ears, fur is clean and matt free, nails are a good length, feet should not be sore, teeth should a good length, good appetite, interacting with children and the other guinea pig, alert, squeaks, whistles and purring. If any of the following are noticed a vet will be consulted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any sudden change in behaviour or habits (vocalizing more or less, scratching, licking, etc.) ➤ Any change in eating or drinking (ingesting either more or less, refusing favourite foods, etc.) ➤ Any change in appearance (loss of fur, swollen areas, squinty eyes, flaky skin, etc.) ➤ Any unusual discharge from the body (runny nose or eyes, odd urine, bleeding, etc.) Any change in movement (limping, unwillingness to move, etc.) Any change in urination or faeces. The Guinea Pigs will stay in school overnight and weekends. Some weekends, the Guinea Pigs will be taken home by a member of staff. • During school holidays, a member of staff will take them home. • A secure and clean cage will ensure that they cannot escape, are not harmed and are healthy. • The Guinea Pigs will be kept indoors in a quiet and calm environment but not isolated from daily life in school. Cage will include enrichments such as places to hide, climb over and places to gnaw to keep teeth from over growing. During the warmer months, the Guinea pigs maybe kept outside with access to the activities listed above. • Guinea pigs will have access to an outdoor area daily (weather dependent). 					
Safety and care	Handling including allergies	5	4	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check medical records/ talk to staff/ parents to determine whether staff or pupils have any known allergic reactions to animals, bedding, feed • If a child should show signs of an allergic reaction to the guinea pigs then appropriate first aid will be given and the parents will be informed. • When handling pets children will be under direct supervision. Children will not consume food or drink. Children will wash their hands with soap 	Staff	Regularly	2	4	8

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					and water before and directly after handling the guinea pigs					
Fear	Guinea pigs: stressed, being dropped Children and adults: stressed, scared.	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be given a choice in whether they want to hold the Guinea Pigs. The Guinea Pigs will be introduced slowly to the children. 	Children and staff	Daily	1	2	2