

CONTACT DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Lead:	Primary Contact:
Participants:	

SERVICE/ACTIVITY DETAILS

Purpose:	Date:
<p>Benefit: Encourages responsible pet ownership by teaching proper handling techniques. Enhances safety by reducing aggressive and unpredictable behaviors. Improves animal behavior through structured training and reinforcement techniques. Provides mental stimulation and enrichment, reducing anxiety and boredom. Strengthens the human-animal bond through trust-building and communication. Supports service animal development for therapy, assistance, and rescue roles.</p>	

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Aggression between animals	Bites, scratches, injuries to handlers or other animals	Enables socialization opportunities that are crucial for behavioral development and well-being.	Conduct thorough behavioral assessments of animals before introducing them into group training sessions. Supervise all interactions closely and be prepared to intervene at the first sign of aggression. Develop and implement protocols for safely separating animals if conflicts arise. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Allergic reactions	Skin irritation, respiratory issues, anaphylaxis	Enables individuals with mild allergies to participate in training activities, increasing staffing flexibility and inclusivity.	Identify handlers with known allergies to specific animals. Provide appropriate PPE, such as gloves and masks, to minimize allergen exposure. Ensure proper ventilation in training areas to reduce airborne allergens. Develop emergency protocols to address severe allergic reactions promptly. (ALL)	Handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Animal bites	Puncture wounds, infections, nerve damage	Enhances handler confidence and effectiveness, leading to improved training outcomes and stronger human-animal bonds.	Provide handlers with extensive training on animal behavior and proper handling techniques. Utilize protective equipment such as gloves and arm guards when necessary. Establish protocols for recognizing and responding to signs of aggression or discomfort in animals to prevent bites during training sessions. (ALL)	Handlers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Animal stress or anxiety	Pacing, vocalization, aggression, shutdown behavior	Allows animals to adapt to new behaviors and environments, enhancing their well-being and success in training programs.	Monitor animals closely for signs of stress or anxiety, such as pacing, vocalizations, or withdrawal. Utilize positive reinforcement training methods to create a supportive learning environment. Schedule regular breaks during training sessions and provide enrichment activities to alleviate stress. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Chemical exposure (cleaning agents, pesticides)	Poisoning, skin irritation, respiratory distress	Maintains a clean and hygienic environment essential for health and safety during training.	Use only animal-safe cleaning products and pesticides in areas where animals are trained or housed. Store all chemicals securely in designated areas away from animals. Ensure proper ventilation during and after the application of chemicals to prevent inhalation exposure. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Environmental hazards (e.g., slippery floors)	Slips, trips, falls, broken bones	Creates a safe training environment that allows for a variety of activities and exercises.	Maintain training areas by promptly cleaning spills and debris to prevent slips and falls. Use non-slip flooring materials or mats in areas prone to moisture. Conduct regular safety audits to identify and address potential environmental hazards. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Escape during training	Lost animals, injuries, traffic accidents	Provides animals with opportunities for off-leash training, improving obedience and responsiveness.	Conduct training sessions in secure, enclosed areas with appropriate barriers to prevent escapes. Regularly inspect and maintain enclosures and equipment to ensure they are in good condition. Train animals on recall commands and establish emergency response plans in case of an escape. (ALL)	Animals, handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Exposure to toxic plants or substances	Poisoning, illness, severe allergic reactions	Allows animals to explore natural training environments safely, enriching their experiences.	Inspect training areas for the presence of toxic plants or hazardous materials. Remove or restrict access to potential toxins. Educate handlers on plant identification and signs of poisoning. Keep emergency contact details for veterinary services readily available. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Food aggression	Growling, snapping, biting, guarding behavior	Allows the use of food rewards to motivate and reinforce desired behaviors effectively.	Implement desensitization protocols to reduce food-related aggression, such as hand-feeding and gradual exposure to food-related triggers. Feed animals separately to prevent competition and aggression. Use positive reinforcement to encourage calm behavior around food. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Handler distraction or inattention	Missed warning signs, inconsistent training results, increased risk of accidents	Ensures handlers remain engaged and responsive, creating a more effective and safe training experience.	Implement focused training protocols where handlers limit the use of mobile devices and unnecessary conversation during sessions. Encourage mindfulness techniques to maintain full attention on the animal's behavior and responses. Rotate responsibilities to prevent fatigue-related lapses. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Handler fatigue or injury	Muscle strain, repetitive stress injuries, reduced focus	Ensures handlers can engage in extended training sessions, promoting consistency and progress in animal training.	Implement ergonomic training practices to reduce physical strain on handlers. Encourage regular breaks and rotation of duties to prevent fatigue. Provide training on safe handling and lifting techniques to minimize the risk of musculoskeletal injuries. (ALL)	Handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Heat stress or hypothermia	Dehydration, heat stroke, frostbite, lethargy	Allows for year-round training, ensuring continuity and progress regardless of external weather conditions.	Monitor environmental conditions closely, including temperature and humidity levels. Provide climate-controlled training areas or schedule sessions during times of day when temperatures are moderate. Ensure animals have access to water and shade during outdoor training to prevent temperature-related issues. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Inadequate emergency response planning	Delayed treatment of injuries, ineffective containment of escaped animals	Provides a structured approach to handling emergencies, ensuring a swift response that minimizes harm to animals and handlers.	Develop and rehearse emergency response protocols for incidents such as injuries, escapes, or medical emergencies. Ensure first-aid kits are accessible, and handlers are trained in basic first aid for animals. Maintain up-to-date contact details for veterinary services. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Inadequate socialization	Fearful behavior, increased aggression, difficulty adapting to new environments	Develops well-adjusted animals capable of coping with diverse situations, enhancing their quality of life.	Conduct controlled exposure exercises where animals gradually interact with various people, environments, and other animals under supervision. Use positive reinforcement to encourage confidence. Monitor interactions closely and intervene when necessary to prevent negative experiences. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Inappropriate use of training tools	Physical injury, stress, fear-based behaviors	Enhances communication between handler and animal, leading to more effective training outcomes.	Provide comprehensive education to handlers on the correct and ethical use of training tools such as leashes, clickers, and harnesses. Conduct practical demonstrations and enforce guidelines that prioritize the animal's well-being. Regularly assess tool effectiveness and condition. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Incorrect reinforcement timing	Confusion, inconsistent behavior responses, slower learning	Strengthens behavior retention by providing clear and timely feedback, enhancing the learning process.	Train handlers in timing and precision of reinforcement, ensuring rewards or corrections occur immediately after the desired behavior. Use clicker training or marker words to bridge timing gaps. Regularly assess reinforcement consistency to maintain effectiveness. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Ineffective communication between handlers	Misinterpreted commands, inconsistent training, safety incidents	Improves coordination among handlers, leading to more effective training sessions and enhanced safety.	Implement standardized training procedures and ensure all handlers use consistent commands and cues. Hold regular briefings before training sessions to align on goals and safety measures. Use hand signals or radios for clear communication in large training areas. (ALL)	Handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Injury from training equipment	Bruises, cuts, entanglement, choking	Utilizes specialized equipment to facilitate effective training techniques and communication with the animal.	Regularly inspect all training equipment for wear and tear, and repair or replace as needed. Provide handlers with comprehensive instruction on the correct use of each piece of equipment. Select equipment that is appropriate for the size, species, and temperament of the animal to prevent injuries. (ALL)	Animals, handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Lack of positive reinforcement alternatives	Decreased engagement, reliance on specific rewards, frustration	Enhances the effectiveness of training by tailoring motivation strategies to each animal's unique preferences.	Diversify reinforcement methods to include non-food rewards such as praise, toys, and playtime. Observe individual animals to determine their most effective motivators. Ensure reinforcement is meaningful and contextually relevant to maintain engagement. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Noise-induced stress	Startle responses, training disruption, increased anxiety	Prepares animals for real-world environments where noise is unavoidable, enhancing their adaptability.	Minimize exposure to loud or sudden noises during training by controlling the environment. Use soundproofing materials in training areas to reduce external noise. Gradually acclimate animals to necessary sounds through desensitization techniques to prevent stress responses. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Over-reliance on treats	Obesity, dependency on food rewards, reduced training effectiveness	Encourages intrinsic motivation in animals, reducing dependence on food-based rewards over time.	Establish balanced reward systems incorporating verbal praise, physical affection, and play alongside food treats. Monitor treat usage to prevent overfeeding and ensure dietary balance. Gradually phase out treats for behaviors once they are well-established. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Overexertion	Fatigue, overheating, potential collapse, increased risk of injury	Promotes physical fitness and endurance, contributing to the overall health of the animal.	Monitor animals for signs of fatigue, overheating, or excessive panting during training. Structure training sessions to include rest breaks and hydration. Adjust activity levels based on the animal's fitness, age, and breed to prevent overexertion-related injuries or health issues. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Scratches from claws or nails	Lacerations, infections, minor bleeding	Allows for close interaction necessary for effective training, fostering trust between animal and handler.	Regularly trim animals' nails to appropriate lengths to minimize the risk of scratches. Equip handlers with protective clothing, such as long sleeves and pants. Educate handlers on safe interaction practices, including proper approaches and restraint techniques, to reduce the likelihood of scratches. (ALL)	Handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Training animals beyond their capacity	Frustration, confusion, refusal to participate	Allows animals to build skills at a comfortable pace, increasing retention and enthusiasm for training.	Assess each animal's individual learning pace and capabilities before setting training goals. Modify training plans based on the animal's progress and response. Avoid excessive repetition that may lead to frustration, confusion, or burnout. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Training in unfamiliar or distracting environments	Anxiety, loss of focus, training regression	Builds confidence and adaptability, allowing animals to perform trained behaviors in diverse real-world settings.	Gradually introduce animals to new training locations, starting with low-distraction areas and progressing to busier environments. Use positive reinforcement to reward focus. Ensure training sessions remain controlled to prevent anxiety or overstimulation. (ALL)	Animals	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Training-related stress in handlers	Mental fatigue, frustration, reduced training effectiveness	Ensures handlers remain calm and effective, fostering a positive training atmosphere that benefits both human and animal.	Implement stress management training for handlers, including strategies for maintaining patience and emotional control. Encourage regular breaks and peer support systems. Provide mental health resources to help handlers manage challenging training situations. (ALL)	Handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Unpredictable animal reactions	Bites, scratches, escape attempts, stress responses	Helps animals develop resilience and adaptability, preparing them for diverse environments and situations.	Educate handlers on animal body language and warning signs of distress or aggression. Ensure handlers use calm, controlled movements to reduce unpredictability. Establish safety protocols, including escape routes and de-escalation techniques for unexpected situations. (ALL)	Handlers, animals	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Unsupervised access to training areas	Unintended interactions between animals, risk of injury or escape	Maintains controlled environments where animals can focus on learning without unnecessary distractions or risks.	Restrict access to training spaces when not in use through secure fencing, gates, or locked enclosures. Implement clear signage to indicate restricted areas. Assign designated personnel to supervise training areas during active sessions. (ALL)	Animals, handlers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Zoonotic disease transmission	Bacterial, viral, fungal, or parasitic infections	Facilitates essential human-animal interactions that promote learning and socialization for the animal.	Ensure animals are up-to-date on vaccinations and receive regular veterinary health check-ups. Implement strict hygiene practices, including thorough handwashing before and after contact with animals. Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks when dealing with animals that may carry zoonotic diseases. (ALL)	Handlers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Unpredicted risks	Illness, injury, death		Continuous risk monitoring conducted by all staff. Any unforeseen hazards must be reported promptly to supervisors or management, with immediate corrective action taken as necessary. (ALL)	All	N/A

NOTES

Extra notes & activity evaluation:

Completed by

Reviewed/Approved by

Risk Assessment Date

Review Required Date