CONTACT DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Lead:	**Primary Contact:**
Participants:	

SERVICE/ACTIVITY DETAILS

Purpose:	**Date:**

Benefit: Enhances the well-being of pets through attention, play, and interaction. | Ensures pets receive companionship and care in the absence of their owners. | Maintains feeding, medication, and exercise routines for consistent pet health. | Provides a safe and comfortable environment, reducing pet stress and anxiety. | Reduces the risk of pet neglect by providing reliable care services. | Supports responsible pet ownership by offering care during vacations and emergencies.

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Accidental ingestion of foreign objects leading to blockages	Intestinal obstruction, emergency surgery, pain	Allowing pets to engage in play and chewing behaviors supports natural instincts, helps with teething, and strengthens jaw muscles.	Keep all small objects (e.g., socks, rubber bands, buttons) out of reach. Store trash bins securely to prevent pets from rummaging. Supervise chew toy use and replace worn-down or damaged items promptly. Train pets with “leave it” and “drop it” commands to reduce ingestion risks. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Aggressive behavior from fearful, territorial, or reactive pets	Aggression towards caregivers, injury to other pets, increased stress	Providing care for difficult pets ensures they receive attention, training, and socialization that they might not get elsewhere.	Conduct pre-care behavioral screenings, identifying specific triggers. Use controlled introductions with a barrier or leash. Train staff in animal body language, de-escalation techniques, and proper restraint methods. If necessary, introduce muzzles for safety and inform pet owners about potential risks. **(ALL)**	Pet sitters, pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Car accidents during pet transport, including sudden stops or vehicle overheating	Injuries, stress, fatality risk	Positive travel experiences increase adaptability, making vet visits and trips less stressful for pets.	Use crash-tested pet crates, seatbelt harnesses, or carriers when transporting pets. Never leave pets unattended in vehicles, especially in hot weather. Keep the vehicle temperature regulated and make frequent water stops on long trips. **(ALL)**	Pets, pet sitters	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Choking hazards from small objects, broken toys, or inappropriate chewables	Choking, internal blockages, emergency surgery	Chewing and interactive play support dental health, mental stimulation, and reduce anxiety-related destructive behavior.	Regularly inspect all pet toys and remove any broken or small items that could be swallowed. Avoid giving pets small bones or unsafe chew objects. Supervise pets during play and meal times to prevent ingestion of foreign objects. Learn pet first aid for choking emergencies. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Difficulty in administering medication or supplements safely	Missed doses, overdose, stress responses	Ensuring proper medication adherence allows pets with chronic conditions to receive necessary treatment, improving their quality of life and longevity.	Obtain clear instructions from owners regarding dosage, timing, and preferred administration method. Use pill pockets, mix medication with food, or apply liquid medication to favorite treats. If manual administration is needed, use gentle restraint techniques to minimize stress. Keep records of each dose given. **(ALL)**	Pets, pet sitters	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Drowning or water-related injuries in pools, lakes, or large water bowls	Accidental drowning, respiratory distress	Exposure to safe water activities improves confidence, supports physical fitness, and prevents fear-based anxiety.	Supervise all pets around water sources, keeping pools fenced or covered. Avoid deep water exposure for non-swimmers unless trained in pet water safety. Use flotation devices for dogs engaging in swimming activities. Monitor hydration levels and provide fresh drinking water. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Escape attempts due to unsecured enclosures, open doors, or panic responses	Pets running away, getting lost, traffic accidents	Allowing pets supervised time outdoors supports physical activity and mental well-being, reducing anxiety and destructive behaviors.	Secure all outdoor enclosures and doors with pet-proof locks. Use escape-proof harnesses or double-leash systems on walks. Microchip pets and ensure ID tags contain updated contact information. Train staff to be aware of potential flight risks and to close gates/doors immediately after use. **(ALL)**	Pets, pet sitters	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Fire hazards from electrical cords, open flames, or heating devices	Burns, house fires, smoke inhalation	Creating a warm, home-like environment with controlled heating supports comfort and relaxation for pets.	Keep all electrical cords covered or out of reach. Avoid using space heaters near pet bedding. Never leave lit candles unattended. Install smoke detectors in all pet areas and have an emergency evacuation plan in place. **(ALL)**	Pets, pet sitters	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Heatstroke from prolonged exposure to high temperatures or direct sunlight	Excessive panting, collapse, organ failure	Safe outdoor time in warm weather helps maintain healthy exercise habits and supports vitamin D production for strong bones.	Schedule outdoor activities in cooler hours (morning/evening). Always provide shade and cool drinking water. Avoid hot surfaces (pavement, sand) that could burn paw pads. Monitor for symptoms like excessive panting, drooling, or lethargy, and use cooling mats or damp towels if needed. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Ingestion of hazardous substances like cleaning chemicals, human food, or medication	Toxic poisoning, internal injuries, neurological effects	Allowing pets to interact with different environments helps them develop impulse control and trainability.	Store all chemicals, cleaning products, and medications in locked cabinets. Use only pet-safe cleaning agents. Monitor pets in kitchens or trash areas to prevent ingestion of toxic human foods (e.g., chocolate, onions). Train pets with commands like "leave it" to deter scavenging. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Injury from interactions with other pets (e.g., bites, scratches, rough play)	Wounds, infections, stress-related aggression	Socialization with other pets improves communication skills and emotional intelligence.	Carefully introduce new pets in neutral spaces to gauge compatibility. Supervise all interactions, especially between large and small animals. Separate pets at the first sign of aggression and use positive reinforcement to encourage good social behavior. Keep a pet first aid kit readily available for minor injuries. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Overexertion from excessive exercise, long walks, or high-energy play	Joint injuries, exhaustion, dehydration	Structured physical activity prevents obesity, supports cardiovascular health, and improves mood.	Assess individual pets' fitness levels and tailor exercise plans accordingly. Schedule breaks during activity and provide fresh drinking water. Watch for signs of exhaustion, such as heavy panting or reluctance to move. Avoid high-impact play for pets with joint issues or young puppies. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Pet theft or loss due to inadequate security measures	Missing pets, stolen animals, legal liability	Allowing pets socialization and playtime in secure areas encourages confidence, agility, and better behavior.	Always supervise pets during outdoor play and while transitioning between locations. Ensure all pets wear ID tags and have updated microchip information. Use GPS collars for high-risk pets. Keep doors, gates, and enclosures secure at all times, and avoid leaving pets unattended in public areas. **(ALL)**	Pets, pet sitters	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Poisonous plants accessible in gardens, parks, or indoor spaces	Toxic ingestion, vomiting, organ damage	Exploring natural environments encourages curiosity, sensory engagement, and cognitive development in pets.	Identify and remove known toxic plants in pet areas. Educate caregivers on common toxic plants (e.g., lilies, sago palms). Supervise pets outdoors to prevent ingestion of unknown foliage. Train dogs with "leave it" and provide safe chew alternatives to discourage plant eating. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Separation anxiety causing destructive behavior or excessive barking	Property damage, stress-related illness, self-harm	Exposure to short-term absences helps pets develop independence and reduces long-term anxiety.	Establish predictable routines for feeding, play, and rest to create a sense of security. Use interactive toys or puzzles to reduce stress during alone time. Introduce crate training for comfort, not punishment. Offer calming pheromone sprays or anxiety wraps when needed. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Zoonotic diseases transmitted between humans and pets (e.g., ringworm, leptospirosis)	Illness transmission, skin infections, respiratory issues	Exposure to a variety of healthy animals builds natural immunity and supports safe human-animal interaction.	Maintain strict hygiene practices, including handwashing before and after handling pets. Regularly disinfect shared pet spaces and equipment. Ensure all pets are up to date on vaccinations and parasite control. **(ALL)**	Pet sitters, pets	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Allergic reactions to food, environmental allergens, or medication	Skin rashes, vomiting, anaphylactic shock	Exposure to different environments and controlled new experiences strengthens immune responses and prevents over-sensitivity.	Obtain a comprehensive medical history from owners, including known allergens. Ensure pets are exposed to safe, allergen-free spaces and avoid unnecessary diet changes. If medication is required, confirm dosage and reaction history. Keep antihistamines or emergency vet contacts available for immediate response. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Cold exposure leading to hypothermia, frostbite, or discomfort	Shivering, lethargy, tissue damage	Controlled exposure to seasonal changes helps pets regulate body temperature and build natural cold resistance.	Limit outdoor exposure in extreme cold, especially for short-haired or senior pets. Provide protective gear like insulated coats and booties. Ensure indoor environments are warm and dry. Dry pets thoroughly after rain or snow, and monitor for shivering, lethargy, or cold skin. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Digestive upset due to sudden diet changes, food intolerances, or scavenging	Diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration	Introducing controlled variety into a pet's diet can improve gut health and reduce sensitivity to dietary changes.	Follow strict feeding instructions from owners, avoiding any unauthorized food changes. If a diet change is necessary, transition gradually over several days. Monitor stool consistency, appetite, and energy levels for signs of intolerance or discomfort. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Flea, tick, and parasite infestations from other pets or outdoor exposure	Skin irritation, disease transmission, discomfort	Allowing pets outdoor time provides enrichment, exercise, and exposure to natural immunity-building microbes.	Inspect pets for fleas, ticks, and signs of worms regularly. Use vet-approved flea/tick preventatives. Wash bedding and sanitize living areas to prevent spread. Avoid contact with wildlife or known parasite-infested areas. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Inadequate ventilation leading to heat buildup or respiratory distress	Heat exhaustion, breathing difficulties, discomfort	Exposure to fresh air supports respiratory health and overall well-being.	Ensure pet areas have proper airflow by opening windows (with secure screens) or using fans. Regularly check that HVAC systems are functioning correctly. Avoid overcrowding enclosed spaces and provide cool resting areas in hot weather. For brachycephalic breeds (e.g., pugs, bulldogs), monitor closely for breathing difficulties. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Loud noises causing stress or panic reactions in sensitive pets	Fear responses, escape attempts, behavioral issues	Gradual exposure to new sounds helps pets develop resilience to noise-related anxiety.	Identify pets prone to noise anxiety and provide designated quiet zones with soundproofing where possible. Use white noise machines or calming music to mask sudden loud sounds. Desensitize pets gradually to common noises (vacuum cleaners, fireworks, thunderstorms) with positive reinforcement training. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Overstimulation from excessive petting, play, or handling	Defensive aggression, stress responses, avoidance behavior	Interactive play and handling strengthen the bond between pets and caregivers while encouraging trust and socialization skills.	Monitor body language for early stress signs such as tail flicking, pinned ears, or lip licking. Allow pets to approach interactions voluntarily rather than forcing contact. Establish designated play/rest periods to prevent overstimulation. Educate caregivers on recognizing and respecting pet boundaries. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Pet boredom leading to destructive behavior, excessive barking, or anxiety	Furniture damage, excessive vocalization, self-harm	Engaged pets are happier, less anxious, and display better overall behavior.	Provide enrichment activities such as puzzle feeders, scent games, and interactive play sessions. Rotate toys regularly to maintain engagement. Ensure adequate exercise to prevent pent-up energy from turning into destructive habits. Establish a routine to create structure and mental stimulation. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Stress from changes in routine, environment, or handling	Anxiety, loss of appetite, aggression	Exposure to different handlers and environments enhances adaptability and resilience.	Stick to the pet’s normal feeding, walking, and sleep schedules as closely as possible. Use familiar bedding, toys, or scents to provide comfort. Introduce new environments gradually, allowing pets to explore at their own pace. Avoid forcing interactions and provide retreat spaces for anxious pets. **(ALL)**	Pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Unfamiliar pets with unpredictable behavior in new environments	Unpredictable reactions, aggression, stress-related illness	Exposure to new environments and caretakers helps pets become more adaptable, making future transitions smoother.	Conduct an initial consultation to assess behavior, temperament, and past experiences. Request details on previous aggression, anxiety triggers, or unusual habits. Slowly introduce pets to the environment and new handlers, using positive reinforcement to build comfort and trust. **(ALL)**	Pet sitters, pets	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
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