



# PETTING ZOO/ANIMAL INTERACTION

## Safety Guide

Youth Group

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Key Benefits

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Checklist Items

**KEY BENEFITS**

**Empathy**

Promotes empathy and compassion through interaction with animals.

**Education**

Enhances knowledge about different animal species and their habitats.

**Responsibility**

Fosters responsibility through proper animal handling and care.

**Conservation**

Builds appreciation for biodiversity and wildlife conservation.

**KEY HAZARDS & CONTROL MEASURES**

**Zoonotic Diseases**

- ✓ Mandatory handwashing after contact
- ✓ Supervise young children closely
- ✓ No eating in animal areas
- ✓ No face contact with animals

**Animal Bites & Scratches**

- ✓ Proper handling demonstrated
- ✓ Staff supervision at enclosures
- ✓ No sudden movements
- ✓ First aid for bites available

**Allergic Reactions**

- ✓ Allergy info collected beforehand
- ✓ Epipens accessible if needed
- ✓ Antihistamines available
- ✓ Alternatives for allergic children

**Large Animal Hazards**

- ✓ Approach from side, not behind
- ✓ No running near animals
- ✓ Adult supervision required
- ✓ Staff present at all times

**PRE-SESSION SAFETY CHECKLIST****Risk Assessment**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and review risk assessment for this activity | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure all identified hazards have control measures in place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brief all staff on key risks and emergency procedures |   |

**Hygiene**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handwash stations located | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitizer available     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No eating rules briefed   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean clothing reminder |

**Animals**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handling rules explained | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff supervision present |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding rules clear      | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosure safety checked  |

**Health**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allergies documented | <input type="checkbox"/> Medication accessible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit ready  | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency plan clear  |

**Supervision**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ratios confirmed       | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy system set   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting point arranged | <input type="checkbox"/> Check-in times set |



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