

Guinea Pig/ Hamster/Snail Risk Assessment – Woodlands Primary School



What are the hazards?	Who may be harmed and how?	What are we doing to minimise risk?	Review Nov 2024
Scratches, bites, nips etc	<p>Guinea Pig/Snail/ Hamster: being dropped</p> <p>Children & adults: being bitten, skin broken, bleeding</p>	<p>Children taught how to safely hold and look after Guinea Pig/Hamsters/Snails to limit animals becoming stressed.</p> <p>Adults will ensure that Guinea Pig/Hamsters are calm before being picked up.</p> <p>If Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails are being carried from one location to another over a distance, they should be transferred into a small box to ensure their safety.</p> <p>Scratches, nips and biting cannot be avoided altogether.</p> <p>Appropriate first aid precautions and training in place.</p> <p>Children only allowed to handle any animal under staff supervision.</p> <p>Children warned not to put fingers through bars.</p> <p>Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails selected for their calm temperament.</p>	
Safety and care of animals	<p>Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snail : being harmed, unclean environment, not enough access to food</p>	<p>Children to understand high expectations regarding their behaviour around the Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails.</p> <p>The Lead Pets in School person will check the Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails daily for signs of</p>	

	and water	<p>stress. signs of stress or illness: weight loss (from weekly weigh in), hiding- isolating itself from the other Guinea Pig/Hamster and the children, seems overly nervous, sleeping more than normal, hair loss, poor appetite.</p> <p>The Lead Pets in School person will lead the cleaning and care (food, water, grooming) of the Guinea Pig/Hamsters.</p> <p>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/Hamsters, alert, squeaks, whistles, wheeks, popcoming and purring.</p> <p>If any of the following are noticed a vet will be consulted:</p> <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.) 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any change in urination or faeces <p>The Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails will stay in school overnight and weekends. During school holidays, a member of staff will take them home.</p> <p>A secure and clean cage will ensure that they cannot escape, are not harmed and are healthy.</p> <p>The run and cages will include enrichments such as places to hide, climb over and places to gnaw to keep teeth from overgrowing.</p> <p>Guinea Pig/Hamsters will have access to an outdoor area daily (weather dependent).</p>	
	<p>Handling including Allergies and disease carried by snails (lungworm)</p>	<p>Any allergies, highlighted during children's induction, to be taken into consideration and may result in specific chn being denied access to animals.</p> <p>Children known to have allergic reactions to specific animals will have restricted access to those that may trigger a response.</p> <p>When handling pets, children will be under direct supervision.</p> <p>Children will not consume food or drink when handling animals.</p> <p>Children will wash their hands with soap and water before and directly after handling the Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails.</p>	
Fear	<p>Guinea Pig/Hamsters: stressed, being dropped</p> <p>Children and adults: stressed, scared.</p>	<p>Children will be given a choice in whether they want to hold the Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails.</p> <p>The Guinea Pig/Hamsters/snails will be introduced slowly to the children.</p>	

