



## General Risk Assessment

To prevent risks snakes alive will endeavour to ...

- Have trained, competent staff with the animals at all times
- Have Handwashing Signs displayed
- Remove animals that may pose a risk

| Hazard                 | Those at risk  | Prevention   | Possible action required   |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Bites and/or scratches | Anyone who handles the animals                               | Person receives close supervision from the presenter. The presenter is trained in the appropriate handling and the handler will be given verbal instructions.  | Minor first aid may be needed if the skin is punctured.  |
| Spiders and scorpions  | Anyone who handles the Spiders or scorpions                  | Trained staff will always be present to guide public. Although they contain venom they are safe if handled correctly.<br><br>The hairs from a spider may cause skin irritation, particularly for those with sensitive skin. . Hand washing facilities must be available. | Bites and stings from these animals may feel like a bee sting and are normally harmless.<br><br>However, if people feel unwell they should seek medical advice. If skin irritation occurs do not rub eyes, thoroughly wash your hands. If irritation persists seek medical advice. |
| Allergens              | Anyone who handles the animals<br>Those with a latex allergy | Presenters should be notified in advance of any known allergies to animals or latex.<br><br>Hand washing facilities must be available and latex free gloves are available upon request, if notified in advance.  | If skin irritation occurs thoroughly wash your hands.<br><br>If irritation persists seek medical advice.   |



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|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Phobias                | Anyone who encounters the animals           | Presenters should be informed of participants with phobias in advance.  | Presenters will always be considerate and sensitive to the needs of nervous participants and will allow them to exit the vicinity of the animals or gradually introduce the animals to them. |
| Zoonotic diseases      | Anyone who handles the animals              | Hands MUST be washed after any contact, and food MUST NOT be consumed in the vicinity of any animals. Disinfectant hand gels are NOT a substitute for thorough hand washing with warm water and soap.         | Some reptiles can carry salmonella, if concerned they should seek medical advice.  |
| Escaped animals        | No potential risk to people                 | Staff will supervise animals and frequently check on them. Animals are never left unattended during talks. A locked room should be made available if the animals are to be unattended for any length of time. | We have an Escaped Animal Procedure that will be followed in the event of an escaped animal.<br><br>Phobics may become anxious and should be notified in a calm way.                         |
| Bug challenge          | People taking part do so at their own risk. | All the bugs used are harmless to humans. Handwashing is recommended after every animal encounter.  |  |
| Bug eating             | People taking part at their own risk.       | All the bugs provided for eating have been professionally prepared and are available to purchase from retail shops.   | If someone feels particularly unwell they may wish to seek medical advice.   |
| Trips, slips and falls | Everyone                                    | We will frequently assess the area for potential trips hazards and attempt to minimise these. If an area is overcrowded we may restrict entry to our exhibit.   |  |
| Heavy Lifting          | Anyone lifting the larger animals           | Follow the guidance in the Animal Handbook on heavy lifting.  | Possible medical attention   |

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