

Animals

Site: Anywhere animals are likely to be encountered	Date:		
Main work activities: Any work activity where there is a significant risk of exposure to harm through contact with animals*			
Maximum number of people exposed: Any Category, (skilled, visitor, trainee etc.): Any Age range: All Frequency and duration of exposure: Daily			
Hazards/risks identified: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any person at work being attacked by an animal 2. Any person at work being accidentally injured by an animal 3. Any person at work suffering ill-health caused by an animal <p><i>* Other generic risk assessments may be relevant and should also be considered. Where more specific hazards/risks are identified that involve work with/near specific species that may cause harm or in specific places/circumstances, then a more specific risk assessment should be completed, using this assessment as a starting point if appropriate</i></p>			
Current action taken to reduce the risk (if any): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any staff exposed to risks of injury or ill-health from animals are aware of the risks and of the general precautions to be taken 2. Wherever a greater risk of injury or ill-health from animals is perceived, action to avoid injury or ill-health is taken 3. Any incidence of injury, ill-health or near miss is reported allowing future potential exposure to be further controlled <p>Risk assessment (taking account of existing controls): <u>Delete as appropriate (see notes overleaf)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A serious risk remains requiring immediate action as detailed below 2. A significant risk remains and will be further dealt with as detailed below 3. This is considered a low/acceptable risk that is currently sufficiently well controlled 			
Agreed new/additional control measures:	When	Who	Done

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Where ever possible you should involve your team in the risk assessment and gain their commitment to control measures.

General Guidance

Notes on risk assessment and completion of this form

NB This is a generic risk assessment for guidance only. Further or different controls may be necessary for specific individuals and jobs. This assessment should be modified and personalised accordingly.

1. This form should be used to specify the controls that are in place to deal with any identified hazard where some significant risk of harm/damage or loss is identified.
2. A judgement of significant risk may be made through experience of previous incidents, official guidance on risks associated with certain activities or through individual expertise and advice.
3. A hazard is anything with the potential to cause harm/damage or loss. Examples include: electricity, vehicles, anything very hot or very cold, any sharp or pointed instrument or object, something very heavy/awkward that must be moved, something toxic or caustic, flammable or dangerous substances.
4. The risk calculation is a subjective process to determine whether those with responsibility are satisfied that the controls in place, with respect to a particular hazard, are sufficient to avoid an incident or to make an incident sufficiently unlikely. In certain cases reference to statutory requirements may be necessary.
5. Those carrying out the risk assessment should be competent to do so. Competence is the ability to profile the risks in operational activities and then apply the right measures to control and manage those risks. In case of doubt, advice should be sought from the Safety Officer or others as appropriate.

Specific Guidance - Animals

Injuries from animals are most commonly caused by dogs and by cattle.

General precautions to protect against dog attacks

Do not approach an unfamiliar dog or enter any premises or land where there are dogs unless you know it is safe to do so. Be particularly cautious if you are alone.

If approached by an unfamiliar dog the best option is to completely ignore it. Stay still and be calm. Do not panic or make loud noises. Avoid direct eye contact with the dog and stand with the side of your body facing the dog. Do not run from a dog – this is very likely to trigger a chase instinct. Wait for it to leave.

If the dog does not leave you alone say “No” or “Go away” in a firm, deep voice.

If you feel the dog is getting aggressive slowly raise your hands to your neck, with your elbows in. Put anything you have with you such as a bag or jacket between you and the dog.

If you are knocked down, curl into a ball with your head tucked in and your hands tightly covering your ears and neck.

General precautions to avoid injury from grazing cattle

Avoid entering areas where there are grazing cattle if it is not necessary to do so. Be particularly cautious if you are alone. If you have to enter such an area keep as far away from the cattle as possible.

Do not enter an area where there are grazing cattle with calves or young cattle if you have a dog with you.

If you are unexpectedly approached by cattle while walking a dog release the dog from its lead, do not pick the dog up and walk away from the cattle.

For information on the risks of injury and ill-health from other species and in more specific circumstances and for more information on risks associated with animals in general contact your Line Manager or OSHA.