

# Zoo Visit Risks and Control Measures

During your booked education session the Education Officers are not left in charge of the class. **The class teacher has full responsibility** for the children, if your students are 15 or under they must be supervised at all times within the zoo.

Other staff in Education Centre are all aware that the class(es) are taking place, the room where the class is held and the route that the class are likely to follow on a walkabout.

The Education Officer will lead the way, alert to any dangers, ensure that no one approaches the animals too closely or disturbs the animals during the session time.

Hazard	Control measures in place
Illness and/or accident	Teacher/group leader in charge of class to contact member of zoo staff to radio for assistance from Zoo First Aider, followed by Emergency Services when appropriate.
Fire in the Education Centre	Education Officer (EO) will inform the class and teacher of the fire exits and procedure at the start of the indoor section of the lesson. In the event of fire the EO in charge of class is to evacuate the Education Centre and assemble on penguin lawn. Out with class follow instructions of zoo staff.
Lost Child	Children should be supervised at all times with arranged meeting points. Lost children should be reported immediately to a member of zoo staff. At which point the Society's lost child protocol is activated.
Animal Escape (while class in Education Centre)	Education Officer in charge of class to ensure group stay within the building with no windows or doors open until 'stand down' has been declared by Officer in Charge - Animal Recapture.
Animal Escape (while class is walkabout on grounds)	Education Officer in charge of class to escort group to nearest building and ensure group stay within building. No windows and doors to be opened. Out with class follow instructions of keeping staff.
Hazards while in Education Centre	Education Officer in charge of class informs the group that there is to be no running within the building. EO informs the class of any objects i.e. large skulls, skeletons and biofacts, within the room which may cause a hazard.
Hazards while in grounds of zoo	Education Officer in charge of class informs the group that there is to be: no running, no climbing on walls, fences, barriers etc. keep with leaders and EO for the class duration. Outside class time class should be supervised at all times. All play equipment should be used appropriately, all equipment is checked regularly and conforms to all relevant safety legislation.



THE ROYAL  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF SCOTLAND

Registered charity number: SC004064



EDINBURGH  
ZOO

# Risk Assessment

## Group Leader Information

ADULT

Hazard	Control measures in place
Being hit by a vehicle while crossing or walking on roads	Class should be supervised at all times and should not run. Class should be prevented from climbing on unattended vehicles. Zoo staff to keep to a speed limit of 10 mph.
Slip/trip and fall	Suitable foot wear must be worn at all times when in the zoo grounds. Classes must always move around enclosures and the zoo with care and consideration for the environment, animals and other visitors.
Infection too/from animals	Education Officer will activate the pre and post animal contact protocol - using hand wash and informing people to not put their fingers into their mouth etc. Out with the session children should be accompanied at all times and should not attempt to touch any of the zoo animals.
Other animal bite/scratch	All education animals are accustomed to be being held. No highly dangerous animal is used in education sessions. The EO will instruct the class of best handling procedures for a particular animal and will monitor the animals at all times. When the class is in the zoo they should be quiet and calm when near animals and must not feed the animals. Read warning signs and do not allow any member of the group to climb on barriers or walls or to put anything into an animal enclosure, including body parts.
Snake bite (non-venomous, as we don't have any venomous snakes on site)	Education officer will be supervising any animal handling done by the class in the classroom. The EO will inform the class on best handling procedures of the snake. The EO will monitor the behaviour of the snake throughout the session and will stop if there are signs of a stressed or irritated snake.
Allergy to a animal/chemical/plant (allergy to insect bite)	All known allergies/medical conditions must be made known to the EO prior to the commencement of the class. If the student comes in contact with an allergen first aid will be provided by the first aiders on site. Pre and post animal contact protocol will be activated by the EO.
Panic attacks brought on by animal phobias	Education officer will ask group if anyone has any fears. All animal houses have signs indicating what animals are inside.
Muscle strain from moving bio-facts	Class members must not lift anything deemed heavy and are closely supervised by teachers.

If you have any further questions about our Health and Safety procedures please contact the SHE manager Stuart Jenkinson  
email: [sjenkinson@rzss.org.uk](mailto:sjenkinson@rzss.org.uk)  
Telephone: 0131 314 0343

for further activities

[www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/education/resources](http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/education/resources)