

Appendix B

Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/5/21	Activity/Process Giant African Land Snails			Location Tops Day Nurseries			Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
No: 003	Activity/Process	Hazard	Persons in Danger	Severity L,M,H	Likelihood L,M,H	Rate	Controls Comments		Result

Risk Benefit.

The five freedoms that apply to any living creature in our care.

- 1: *Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition:* give ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- 2: *Freedom from discomfort:* provide a suitable environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- 3: *Freedom from pain, injury and disease:* ensure prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- 4: *Freedom to express normal behaviour:* provide sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- 5: *Freedom from fear and distress:* ensure conditions avoid mental suffering.

Having pets encourages children to have shared ownership over the care and attention given to another living creature, which teaches them how to respect and treat animals and in turn this passes over to interactions with humans. It engages them to respond to something other than their own needs as the creature is dependent upon them for food, warmth, exercise, safety etc. This is often something the children may have not been exposed to thinking about before.

Children often talk, with pets, or about the pets promoting communication and language skills, children will also often draw pictures, paintings of the pets in the setting. Children sometime use pets as alter egos who they can play and talk with using their imaginative skills, which can solve problems or issues they may be experiencing.

The nursery will often take the children to the pet shop to purchase supplies for the animals further enhancing their children's real life experiences and adding to the ownership and responsibility of looking after the animal. Stroking pets helps to release positive chemicals in the brain which in turn makes the child feel relaxed and happy. However some children are fearful of pets as they might be worried about them biting, scratching or other unpredictable behaviours, observing their peers interacting with pets can help children overcome their anxieties and find strategies to cope with situations they feel less confident about.

Read The Giant African Land Snail in the Nursery [here](#)

1	Location of tank	Handling of GALS for staff & children	GALS Staff	M	L	L	Wash your hands before handling your snails and rinse them well to remove soap residue from your skin. Leave hands slightly damp, as this will make your skin more comfortable for them. Always remember to thoroughly wash your hands after handling.	A
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							<p>Snails shells are fragile and should always be handled carefully. New shell growth comes from the opening of the shell, and the area around here is particularly delicate. It is best to avoid handling them near the shell opening, as it can be easily damaged.</p> <p>Snails can be picked up gently by their shell. It is best to carefully scoop them up when they are on the floor of the tank. If a snail is on the wall of the tank, do not try to pull them off. There is a risk that you could damage their shell or even pull the shell off. If you need to move a snail that is on the side of the tank, spray him and the tank wall with warm water and then gently slide him off of the glass. Young snails are particularly fragile and great care should be taken when moving them. It is safest to handle animals while seated, so that if they accidentally fall they do not drop quite so far. Do not touch your snail's antennae. They respond by withdrawing and so it can be considered that this is unpleasant for them. Keep your movements slow and deliberate, so as not to startle your snail and they will soon get used to being handled.</p> <p>Suitably sized escape proof container of either plastic or glass, providing adequate light and ventilation. Consider weight of tank material and tank when locating.</p> <p>Siting of the container needs to be able to maintain damp but not sodden conditions (to</p>		

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							<p>retain humidity spray 1-2 times a day with water mister). Provide at least 4-8 inches of soil (substrate – coir, peat, sphagnum moss or potting soil) which is free from pesticides for burrowing/egg laying.</p> <p>Avoid gravel, rocks, bricks, porcelain water which snails may fall on and damage their shells.</p> <p>Maintain temperature around 18-30°C. A heat mat is to be provided in winter months to ensure temperature is maintained around 21°C (avoid placing under the tank to ensure snails are not 'cooked' as substrate retains the heat). If not providing a heat mat snails may hibernate been October to May (do not throw them away!</p> <p>If providing a water bowl ensure not too full (1cm) as baby snails could drown.</p>		
2	GALS health	GALS		M	M	M	<p>See GALS in the Nursery care sheet. It is a very good idea to locate your nearest exotics vet with experience of treating snails before you need them, so that you have their details readily available in case of an emergency.</p> <p>A healthy snail will have a clean, unbroken shell and no unusual lumps, bumps and patches on its body. Small white patches on its skin may indicate a problem that needs to be treated by a vet. A snail that does not come out of its shell may be suffering from dehydration.</p>		

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3	Cleaning of tank	Circumstances leading to Mites, salmonella, rat lungworm, meningitis	GALS, snail handlers	M	L	L	Daily remove surface debris and waste food (prolong the life of the substrate) and reduce likelihood of mites (white fast moving insects) and flies and check for unwanted eggs. To rid mites dispose of soil, clean tank in hot water and detergent. Remove all traces of detergent. Snails can be bathed in room temperature water to rid them of mites but their shells are delicate. Handle them with damp hands. Ensure that hands are washed and disinfected after handling snails, enclosure cleaning to ensure that salmonella is not contracted. Rat lungworm is unlikely however, ensure that the snail is of UK captive bred origin and not imported. Ensure it is not eaten.		A
4	Feeding	Non maintenance of health leading to poor calcium provision, pesticides, mould	GALS	M	L	L	Follow link above to care sheet for recommended food suggestions. Feed varied diet supermarket/home grown fruit and vegetables, dandelions. Avoid pasta and highly acidic food e.g. oranges and onions. Ensure food is washed thoroughly as snails susceptible to pesticides. Remove untouched food before it has a chance to decompose. Cuttlefish bone is essential to ensure supply of calcium for healthy shell growth.		A
5	Destruction of eggs	Illegal activity	Business continuity, court action	L	L	L	It is illegal to release the snails or eggs into the wild. They are a destructive invasive species. Remove unwanted eggs from tank and place in plastic bags. Freeze between 48 hours and then		A

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							dispose into your composter (can be fed to chickens once frozen and crushed)	
5	Handling	Damage to the GALS	GALS	M	L	L	Pick the snail up by the shell. If the soft body tissue is out of the shell, and attached to the side of the tank, hold the shell and side it off. Make sure your hands are wet and place of the palm of your hand. Wash your hands after holding.	A
6	Health	Mites	GALS				Sometimes tiny mites can be seen on the GALS. Use a cotton bud dipped in warm water to remove them if the population gets too many. They are harmless and love in symbolic relationship with them.	A

Key for Risk Rating: Once the likelihood and severity have been determined, the risk can be calculated below (AXB)

	Likelihood (B)		
Severity (A)	L	M	H
Low	Low	Low	Medium
Medium	Low	Medium	High
High	Medium	High	High

Key to Result:

T	Trivial risk
A	Adequately controlled
N	Not adequately controlled
U	Unable to decide, further information required