

## Appendix B

### Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/5/21	Activity/Process Tortoises			Location Tops Day Nurseries			Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
SS009	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 Tortoises in the nursery care sheet [here](#).

1	Location of enclosure	Poor health of tortoises, manual handling for staff	Tortoises Staff	L	L	L	Refer to sheet link above. A glass tank is not the best option for indoor housing. For the majority of tortoises, even the largest glass tanks are just too small and have poor ventilation. Big tanks are also hard to manoeuvre and clean. Tortoises need lots of floor space for	A
---	-----------------------	---	-----------------	---	---	---	--	---

**Appendix B**
**Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries**

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/5/21	Activity/Process Tortoises			Location Tops Day Nurseries		Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
SS009	Activity/Process	Hazard	Persons in Danger	Severity L,M,H	Likelihood L,M,H	Rate	Controls Comments	Result
							<p>roaming around, but the sides just need to be tall enough that the tortoise can't climb over (whereas aquariums tend to have tall sides). Unless the tank is very large, providing a proper temperature gradient for a tortoise is too difficult in a glass tank. In addition, tortoises seem to prefer non-transparent enclosures—they probably feel very exposed and vulnerable with glass-sided tanks, and often spend a lot of time trying to push through the transparent glass as well.</p> <p>Avoid gravel, rocks, bricks, porcelain water which Tortoises may fall on and damage their shells. Maintain temperature around 18-30°C. A heat lamp is to be provided to ensure temperature is maintained around 21°C (avoid placing under the tank to ensure tortoises are not 'cooked' as substrate retains the heat).</p> <p>Sitting whilst holding your tortoise is the safest way. Pick up by both sides of the shell, never pull on legs, tail or head.</p>	
2	Cleaning of tank	Circumstances leading to Mites, salmonella, rat lungworm, meningitis	Tortoises	L	L	L	<p>Daily remove surface debris and waste food (prolong the life of the substrate) and reduce likelihood of mites (white fast moving insects). To rid mites dispose of soil, clean tank in hot water and detergent. Remove all traces of detergent. Tortoises can be bathed in room temperature water to rid them of mites but their shells are delicate. Olive oil can be rubbed over their clean shell with a cotton wool ball. Handle them with damp hands.</p>	A

## Appendix B

### Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/5/21	Activity/Process Tortoises			Location Tops Day Nurseries		Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
SS009	Activity/Process	Hazard	Persons in Danger	Severity L,M,H	Likelihood L,M,H	Rate	Controls Comments	Result
							Ensure that hands are washed and disinfected after handling Tortoises, enclosure cleaning to ensure that salmonella is not contracted.	
3	Feeding	Non maintenance of health leading to poor calcium provision, pesticides, mould	Tortoises	L	L	L	<p>Feed varied diet supermarket/home grown fruit and vegetables like kale, dandelions, and mustard and collard greens.</p> <p>Fruit: Berries, melon, kiwi, oranges and other fruits should make up 5-10% of a tortoise's diet.</p> <p>Avoid pasta and highly acidic food e.g. oranges and onions.</p> <p>Ensure food is washed thoroughly as Tortoises are susceptible to pesticides.</p> <p>Remove untouched food before it has a chance to decompose.</p> <p><b>Avoid;</b> Daffodils, Azaleas, Foxgloves, buttercups, avocado, hydrangeas, citrus fruit, bean sprouts, morning glory, any bulbs.</p>	A
4	Hygiene	Bacteria	Staff and children	L	L	L	<p>Wash your hands. The single most effective preventative measure that can be taken is thorough, regular hand washing. Wash hands and arms after handling turtles and their aquarium water, and after handling tortoises. Never smoke, drink or eat in the animal rooms or without washing your hands.</p> <p>Children not to touch the tortoises but to observe only.</p>	A

**Appendix B**
**Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries**

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/5/21	Activity/Process Tortoises			Location Tops Day Nurseries			Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
SS009	Activity/Process	Hazard	Persons in Danger	Severity L,M,H	Likelihood L,M,H	Rate	Controls Comments	Result	
5	Handling the reptile	Injury from bites, scratches	Staff and children	L	L	L	Children aware of expected behaviour and how to touch the animal. Staff all Paediatric FA. First aid boxes on site, audited monthly. Accidents/incidents recorded in first aid book. Animal to be in good health. Animal faeces cleaned immediately. Area disinfected using approved substance suitable to setting and animal. Any person displaying fear to be removed from the area and comforted as necessary. Allergy forms on site.	A	
	Handling the tortoise	injury	Tortoise	M	M	M	Tortoises have an instinct to thrash their claws when they are picked up. If you wish to pick up your tortoise, do so by picking it up by the shell and then supporting its limbs as much as possible. Be careful though — dropping a tortoise can shatter its shell, which can lead to life-threatening infections. Tortoises are not ideal pets for children. Tortoises are delicate creatures and even dropping them from a low height can fracture their shells. In addition, tortoises can live an incredibly long time. They require serious commitment and a succession care plan.	A	

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

**Key to Result:**

## Appendix B

### Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/5/21	Activity/Process Tortoises			Location Tops Day Nurseries			Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
SS009	Activity/Process	Hazard	Persons in Danger	Severity L,M,H	Likelihood L,M,H	Rate	Controls Comments		Result

	Likelihood (B)				
Severity (A)	L	M	H		
Low	Low	Low	Medium	T	Trivial risk
Medium	Low	Medium	High	A	Adequately controlled
High	Medium	High	High	N	Not adequately controlled
				U	Unable to decide, further information required