## TASK / ACTIVITY:
GENERAL LIVESTOCK INTERACTION

### TASK DESCRIPTION:
This risk assessment applies to the handling of all animals, including category 1, 2 and 3 at Five Sisters Zoo. Animals & birds are confined to enclosures on the zoo or in specially constructed paddocks and are looked after by trained zoo keepers with employed assistants, labourers, trainees, volunteers and ‘keepers for a day’.

### MAIN HAZARDS:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crushing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trapping</td>
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<td>Impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abrasion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slips / trips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bites, kicks, bruising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Working</td>
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<td>Vehicle movement</td>
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<td>Fatigue / stress</td>
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<td>Electricity</td>
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<td>Fire</td>
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<td>Repetitive actions</td>
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<td>Stressful postures</td>
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<td>Dust</td>
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<td>Zoonotic disease</td>
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<td>Falling objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machinery &amp; equipment</td>
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<td>Hazardous substance</td>
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<tr>
<td>(waste, disinfectant etc)</td>
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### PERSONS EXPOSED:

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<th>Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff, volunteers etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors / Contractors</td>
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People exposed to these risks are generally workers who handle or restrain animals or enter the enclosures. The risk to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, anyone with health conditions is increased, including members of the public.

### CURRENT CONTROL MEASURES:

- Only trained, competent & authorised staff may handle livestock, enter enclosures, restrain livestock or carry out activities, veterinary treatments etc. No under 16’s employed. No under 18’s may handle animals without training and supervision. The main staff responsible for livestock are experienced in animal husbandry. Others (including volunteers) would only handle animals under their direct supervision until deemed competent and authorised.
- Entry into enclosures may be necessary for feeding, cleaning & filling water bowls / mucking out. Where possible or unless low risk only this will be carried out with the animal in their house or outside of the area being cleaned.
- Water bowls are cleaned & refilled using taps and hoses or water buckets. Food is placed on the feeding troughs or similar. There is no public access to enclosures with category 1 animals.
- Feed is mainly manually handled from bins using buckets / barrows and scoops. PPE (overalls, boots, gloves, dust masks etc) available & good personal hygiene. PPE worn as appropriate to the task and risk. Dust masks worn when sweeping out bird enclosures.
- Handling facilities available (cages/boxes, nets, gauntlets etc.), other animals are simply restrained due to their friendly nature. Animal movement and handling is only undertaken by trained staff, others would be under direct supervision. Staff are trained in the handling of specific handling of the livestock and made aware of their behaviour patterns. Handling outside of enclosures is generally when members of the public not present in the park.
- Every effort made to ensure livestock cannot escape from allocated enclosure by regular inspection & maintenance of fences, gates, etc and by careful attention to detail, such as double-checks to ensure
that gates have been secured. Procedures in place for escape of livestock.

- Adequate ventilation, work undertaken outside or in well ventilated livestock housing.
- Eating, Drinking and Smoking is prohibited when working with livestock. Signs displayed for members of the public not to eat or drink while touching the animals. Washing facilities are provided around the zoo and clear wash your hands displayed. Members of the public supervised during activities.
- First aid provisions on site and trained first aiders. No smoking signs displayed, no smoking site.
- Water features in enclosures are fenced from the public and are very shallow. Paths maintained to reduce slips and trips. Maintenance and regular checks of fencing, gates and livestock housing. Fences and pens child proof where necessary and stand-off barriers displayed.
- Children in livestock housing should be supervised by parents or staff. Clear signs saying all children must be supervised on the park are clearly displayed at the entrance & in relevant areas.
- Manual handling limited to bags of feed, small square bales, buckets etc. Wheelbarrows and trolleys available to aid handling over distance. All workers encouraged to assess manual job before carrying it out, to use mechanical means where possible & ask for help if required. In-house training when necessary for particular tasks. Occasional movement of livestock is carried out by encouragement & herding rather than physical effort.
- Only low risk work undertaken by lone workers. Radios or phones carried by park staff.
- Any suggestion of livestock ill-health the animal would go into isolation to receive treatment as necessary. Animals brought onto the zoo, rather than reared on site would go into quarantine before mixing with the other livestock. Regular veterinary inspections of all livestock and routine checks by staff. Advice is taken from the vet when necessary & incidents recorded.
- Rodent control carried out. Staff are encouraged to keep tetanus boosters up to date and informed of the risk of Weil's Disease.
- Workers aware of the risk of strong sunlight. Clothing provided to protect from weather conditions. Veterinary treatments kept secure, trained staff only.
- Waste material cleared as regularly as possible, following the set cleaning-up procedure.

### LEVEL OF RISK?

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<th>Low</th>
<th>Med</th>
<th>High</th>
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### ADDITIONAL CONTROLS REQUIRED:

- Training records should be held for all staff, particularly those who may handle or enter enclosures with category 1 animals. A list of which persons are eligible to work with which animals could be of benefit.
- Regular visual & formal testing of electrics. Lights & sockets adequately rated. Livestock housing designed to ensure that electrical wiring is inaccessible to the animals.
- COSHH Assessment to be completed for zoonotic disease. Staff aware of disease spread to humans from contact with livestock & bodily fluids / faeces. All staff aware of E. Coli 0157, cryptosporidium, campylobacter and salmonella etc.
- Continue regular cleaning & disinfecting areas where visitors have access to reduce the risk of bacterial infection (e.g. E. Coli), such as fencing, gates, door handles, eating areas etc. such as a weekly clean down of these areas with a suitable disinfectant. Other areas of less likely contact should be disinfected on monthly basis. This should be recorded.
- Regularly practice animal escape & document procedure and Keep records of fencing checks. Undertake key audits from time to time for keys to enclosures and staff only areas.

### ASSESSOR’S NAME:

Graeme Curran

### SIGNATURE:

Graeme Curran

### REVIEW DATE:

July 2016

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Five Sisters Zoo & Risk Management Services Ltd.
Handling livestock always involves a risk of injury from biting, crushing, kicking, butting, goring or pecking. The risks cannot be removed entirely even from friendly animals and care must be taken at all times. Never forget a playful animal can still cause injury and over familiarity can catch you off guard. Remember that most livestock have teeth or sharp beaks, may have claws, horns etc. and some can kick. Even the tamest or smallest animal could hurt you, particularly if they feel threatened. Animal behaviour is less predictable in the presence of strangers, or when unusual things are taking place. The risk of injury is increased if the work involves livestock that are not handled frequently, or larger animals / dangerous wild animals. Certain jobs, such as veterinary work may increase the risk further.

Zoonotic diseases can be transmitted to humans from urine, faeces or general contact with livestock, contaminated gates, fencing etc. Also see COSHH assessments. Symptoms may range from skin problems to ‘flu-like conditions which may result in prolonged illness or even death unless treated.

CONTROL MEASURES:

- All workers handling or restraining livestock must be trained and authorised to do so. Workers who are not fully experienced in this operation and thus not authorised MUST be accompanied and supervised by an authorised member of staff. Always consider your own ability, training and experience. Only enter housing or enclosures if you are authorised to do so.
- YOU MAY ONLY WORK WITH LARGE ANIMALS or DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS IF YOU ARE TRAINED AND AUTHORISED. On no account may you have any contact with these animals unless you are explicitly given permission.
- Livestock handling equipment should be used when possible and appropriate to do so. Make sure you are familiar with the animal and its state of health – aggression may be increased if livestock if sick or with newborn young. Where possible carry out feeding, bedding and other routine husbandry tasks without entering the enclosure / pen. Learn the threat signals of the animals you work with.
- You should never underestimate the risk, even from animals that show no sign of aggression as familiarity can lead to complacency. Remember, a playful animal is just as likely to injure you as a distressed one. Never take risks with livestock.
- Some livestock may be familiar with being handled, make sure new arrivals that may be less familiar with noises, activity & personnel involved are allowed to become accustomed to them. If an animal shows aggression, call for help immediately.
- If you are pregnant or have an existing health condition you must not work with animals unless the risks have been carefully assessed and you are authorised to do so by Management.
- Carry out effective planning and preparation before handling. Some jobs will need more than two persons attending – always assess the need for help before beginning work. Handle animals quietly but firmly and with care to avoid pain or distress. Any animal showing aggression or distress should be reported immediately to your supervisor. Work calmly with livestock and don’t shout, be impatient, make sudden movements or use unnecessary force. Check the work area for obstructions or tripping hazards before starting work.
- When entry into animal housing is necessary, make sure you have an adequate escape route and will not be crushed if the animal moves, rolls or stands suddenly. Never allow an animal to get between you and the exit. NEVER enter an enclosure or house when the animal is present unless you are explicitly authorised.
- You may only use halters and ropes if you have been trained. Always check the equipment before use and do not improvise with bale twine or similar. Never attempt to treat or work on any animal that is held by gates alone, or that is otherwise free to move at will.
- Be careful when handling young in the presence of its mother. Do not get between on an animal and its refuge or its young. Don’t forget an animal’s behaviour can change during breeding seasons.
Restraining obviously requires close contact with the animal. Ensure that the animal is correctly restrained so that it is not caused unnecessary pain or distress, and so as not to endanger anyone.

- Always wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking and after contact with livestock or where rats may have been present such as near water, feed stores, bale stores etc. Cover any cuts or abrasions on exposed skin with plasters or gloves before work, to minimise the risk of entry by biological agents.
- Sensible footwear must be worn at all times. Wellingtons, safety boots or other footwear approved by management must be worn. Waterproof aprons, gauntlets and gloves should be worn as necessary. Do not handle sick livestock without gloves or with unprotected cuts on your hands.
- Immediately wash any injuries in clean running water and cover the wound with a waterproof dressing. Report any such injuries to your supervisor and record in the accident book. If you feel ill after handling or contact with animals, you should make prompt contact with your doctor. A member of management must be informed as soon as practical.
- Report any damage to floor surfaces, gates, fencing etc. immediately for repair. Always check gates are correctly locked. NEVER pass keys to unauthorised staff or other people. Make sure everyone is made aware when animals are moved to a new area.
- The physical nature of the work can lead to manual handling injuries. Avoid handling loads where possible. If you need help to handle bales, feed or animals please ask. Make good use of wheel barrows and trolleys to help move goods around the park.
- Being exposed to the weather, especially sunshine or extreme cold can also be harmful. Remember that in sunny weather you should wear light clothing and ideally a hat. Use high factor sunscreen on exposed skin & keep an eye on moles, warts or skin discoloration. See your doctor if moles grow, bleed or itch. Use wet weather clothing during bad weather.
- Exposure to hazardous substances such as disinfectants or other cleaning chemicals, dusts, livestock waste can all cause ill health. Check the COSHH Assessments.
- Make sure you keep members of the public well away from work areas, use barriers / signs when necessary. If in doubt ASK! Opening & closing gates is carried out several times a day – report any difficulties for repair. Getting the gates, barriers & passageways right helps when handling animals.

Animal Escape
- In the event of an animal escaping - Make an announcement of which animal has escaped & where it is. You must ensure the head keeper or their deputy is notified immediately.
- Remove all members of the Public from the immediate vicinity to a place of safety. Management will contact all authorities where necessary, e.g. if the animal leaves the zoo.
- Attempt to keep the animal in a controlled area if there is no danger to yourself or others, or if this is not possible, track its movement. Attempts will be made to catch the animal by management only.

Preventing Infections
- Wear dust masks when handling fodder or bedding in confined areas. Wash hands before and after working in animal areas. Wash hands before and after handling food.
- Report all bites and scratches in animal areas, even if the injury was caused by a sharp object. Watch out for fleas, lice and skin conditions of yourself and animals in your care, report any problems immediately.
- Ensure food and water dishes are kept thoroughly scrubbed. Never eat, drink or apply cosmetics in an animal area and never before washing your hands. Never touch your eyes or lips with dirty hands while working.
- Do not work with unprotected cuts or sores, plasters are readily available. If a cut or sore becomes infectious, consult your doctor immediately. Some diseases can be transmitted from animals to humans, or vice versa - consult your doctor at the first sign of illness. All staff are advised to keep Tetanus boosters up to date.

How to Wash Your Hands
- Use warm water and antibacterial soap. After wetting hands, apply soap and use the following procedure to clean your hands thoroughly: Rub palm to palm, rub backs of both hands, rub palm to
palm with fingers, rub backs of fingers (interlocked), rub all parts of both hands, rub both palms with fingertips. Rinse hands under running water and dry thoroughly.

REVISION: 1  DATE: July 2015  REVIEW DATE: July 2016