

Risk Assessment: Animal Handling (Last Updated: February 2026)

Animal	Activity	Danger/Risk	Short-term consequences	Severity/possible infection	Precautions
<i>INVERTEBRATES</i>					
Black Field Cricket	Handling / Observation	No Hazard	N/A	N/A	Hand washing facilities available
Tarantula	Handling / Observation	Defensive kicking of abdominal hair (Unlikely), biting (Very unlikely)	Irritation to exposed skin and eyes	Very painful toxicity (similar to bee sting), damage to eye tissue, Anaphylactic shock if allergic	Monitor behavior for aggressive posturing, handler proximity, hand washing facilities
Scorpion	Handling / Observation	Stinging or pinching (Unlikely)	High level of localised pain	Anaphylactic shock if allergic	Handler in control of contact, hand washing facilities
Millipede	Handling / Observation	Defensive secretions (poison/iodine-like)	Skin staining or mild irritation	Allergic reaction or localized chemical burn	Hand washing, avoid touching face/eyes during handling
Land Snails	Handling / Observation	Mucus and bacteria	Hygiene risk	Salmonella / Parasitic risk (rare)	Hand washing facilities available
<i>AMPHIBIANS</i>					
Tree Frog	Handling / Observation	No hazard	N/A	N/A	Hand washing facilities available
<i>REPTILES</i>					
Bearded Dragon	Handling / Observation	Scratching, biting (unlikely)	Minor scratches, trauma	Salmonella	Hand washing, monitor behavior for stress
Chameleon	Handling / Observation	Defensive biting, scratching (unlikely)	Minor skin trauma	Salmonella	Monitor stress levels, hand washing
Green Iguana	Handling / Observation	Tail whipping, scratching, biting	Lacerations, bruising, scratches	Salmonella, possibility of infection	Expert handling, monitor behavior
Asian Water Monitor Lizard	Handling / Observation	Scratching and biting	Deep skin trauma, bruising	Possibility of infection around trauma site, Salmonella	Monitor behavior for aggressive posturing, hand washing facilities
Taiwan Beauty Snake	Handling / Observation	Fast defensive bite (unlikely)	Lacerations	Salmonella, infection of trauma site	Monitor behavior, calm handling environment, handler proximity, hand washing
Boa constrictor imperator	Handling / Observation	Biting, constriction	Bruising, skin trauma	Salmonella, muscle strain (if improperly supported)	Monitor behavior, expert handling, hand washing
<i>MAMMALS</i>					
Madagascan Tenrec	Handling / Observation	Spines (pricking), biting	Puncture wounds	Localized infection	Gentle handling, monitor behavior, handler proximity, hand washing
South African Meerkat	Handling / Observation	Scratching and biting	Possible skin trauma	Possibility of infection around trauma site, Salmonella	Monitor behavior for aggressive posturing, handler proximity, hand washing
Ferret	Handling / Observation	Nipping / biting, scratching	Puncture wounds, scratches	Infection (Pasteurella etc.), Possibility of infection around trauma site	Monitor behavior for aggressive posturing, handler proximity, hand washing
<i>BIRDS</i>					
Barn Owl	Handling / Observation	Talons (claws), beak (biting)	Puncture wounds, deep scratches	Localized infection	Expert supervision, use of leather gauntlets, hand washing