

Horse Enhanced Psychotherapy and Learning (HELP) at Top Farm

RISK ASSESSMENT

Name of Organisation: HELP at Top Farm

Venue Address for which RA applies: Top Farm,
Pentre Fron Road, Coedpoeth, Wrexham, LL11
3BU

Date of last review: 1st March 2022

Date of next review: 1st March 2023

Name of Risk Assessor: Kirsty Sanderson

LOCATION	POTENTIAL HAZARD – WHO MAY BE HARMED AND HOW?	WHAT ARE WE DOING TO MINIMISE RISK?
All areas	Allergic reaction - Hay/straw/horse/ Irritant substances	1. Any health issues should be reported during induction. It will be at Top Farm's discretion whether it is advisable for person to remain on site. 2. First aider on site.
All areas	Risk of infection	1. Staff to check animals regularly to establish any potential health issues.
Stables-tack room/field	Manual handling injuries	1. Staff supervise clients/learners with the carrying of horse tack and equipment.
Field - Gate	Trapped fingers from gates blowing in strong winds	1. Gates to be kept shut or fixed open when not in use and clients/learners to be supervised by staff.



Stables - horses	Injury from horses being tied up in yard.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clients/learners closely supervised by staff when working with horses. 2. Staff have received training in horse behaviour and will supervise horse movements around yard. 3. Horses to be tied up under supervision of staff. If any horse show signs of separation anxiety whilst alone in the yard, another horse will be brought in to keep them company and minimise unwanted behaviour.
Stables- equipment	Injury from tripping over mucking out equipment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheelbarrows and mucking out equipment to be kept out of the reach of horses and learners. 2. Wheelbarrows to be emptied before being stored. Staff to supervise clients/learners use of any equipment.
Field and surrounding areas	Slips, trips and falls due to uneven ground/items on floor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All staff, clients/learners and other visitors briefed to walk and not run around yard. 2. Staff, clients/learners and other visitors briefed to wear safe appropriate footwear. 3. Yard is kept tidy. 4. Horse equipment to be put away after every use
Fields - surfaces	Slips, trips and falls due to uneven surface/muddy conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff to informally risk assess each client/learner prior to accessing the fields. Weather conditions and abilities of learner to be taken into consideration.
Fields - horses	Injury from horses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff will supervise clients/learners when they work with the horses in the fields and will inform learners of any horse that should not be approached. 2. Any horse that is displaying unwanted behaviour and is considered a potential danger to clients/learners /staff will be removed from the field before continuing with an activity. Clients/learners will be briefed by staff on any safety rules prior to entering the fields.
Field - fencing	Injury from electric fence or from horses being spooked by electric shock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff will ensure that they know which fences are turned on before clients/learners enter the fields to work with the horses.



Outside	Sunburn/sunstroke	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. clients/learners briefed on the need to wear sun cream outside during sunny periods. 2. Sun cream is available for use by clients/learners and staff. 3. Staff are briefed to model best practice by applying cream several times a day in sunny periods. 4. Drinks offered at regular intervals 5. Shade available.
---------	-------------------	---

ACTIVITY RISK ASSESSMENTS

ACTIVITY	NATURE OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL HAZARD – WHO MAY BE HARMED AND HOW?	WHAT ARE WE DOING TO MINIMISE RISK?
Animal care	Routine care and management. Cleaning of enclosures. Animal checks. Provide food and water. Observation of animals. Invite/answer questions. Poo picking	Bitten. Knocked/tripping over. Allergic reaction. Infection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualified, trained, experienced staff. 2. Information on health and safety provided. 3. Animals are tame. 4. Supervision at all times. 5. Clients/learners capacity to follow instructions safely assessed. 6. First aider on site. 7. Staff to supervise clients/learners use of any equipment.



Ground work in field with horses	Interaction with a horse. Carry out simple tasks. Observation of horse. Reflecting/processing of experience.	Bitten. Knocked/tripping over. Kicked. Allergic reaction. Horse acting instinctively. Manual handling injuries.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff have been trained in Equine Facilitated Learning/Therapy and Emergency First Aid. 2. Sensible, well-mannered horses trained using relational horsemanship techniques. 3. Staff to supervise clients/learners at all times. 4. Induction and introduction to horses given to all participants. 5. Clients/learners capacity to follow instructions safely assessed. 6. Information regarding health and safety around horses provided. 7. No other activities carried out at the same time. 8. Horses matched to clients/learners confidence/ability. Staff will informally risk assess the emotional level and ability of the clients/learners and any potential impact on the horse before allowing any activity. 9. Weather and surface conditions will be taken into consideration before any activity takes place. 10. Staff supervise clients/learners with the carrying of equipment. 11. Staff will stop session immediately if they feel the clients/learners or horse is displaying unsafe behaviour. 12. First aider present at all times.
----------------------------------	---	--	--



--	--	--	--



