

RA035 — Alpaca handling, halter work and husbandry

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment

Sanctuary CPH: 46/327/7111
Veterinary practice: 608 Equine & Farm Veterinary Surgeons · 01926 640 385
Partner / group: Volunteers and placement students

Assessment date: 2026-08-10
Review date: 2027-08-10
Assessor: Liberty Naylor (Sanctuary Manager)

Activity assessed

Catching, haltering, leading, health checking, toenail trimming and shearing preparation for alpacas.

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Kicks, barging and neck-swinging during catching	Handlers	Catch pen used, never open-field chasing. Minimum two trained handlers. Approach from the side, hands on neck and shoulder, never stand directly behind. Helmet-free but sturdy boots and gloves worn.	Medium
Spitting and eye contamination	Handlers	Handlers keep out of the direct spit line; eye protection available. Face and eyes washed immediately at the wash station if contaminated.	Low
Injury to the alpaca from over-restraint or heat stress	Animals	Restraint kept to the minimum time needed. Handling avoided in temperatures above 25 °C or high humidity; early morning sessions used in summer. Animals monitored for open-mouth breathing and released immediately.	Medium
Toenail trimming and health check tasks	Handlers, animals	Only competent handlers (TR-01) trim nails, using sharp, disinfected trimmers. Animal restrained against a wall or in the crush. Any lameness, wound or weight loss reported to the vet.	Low
Visitors present during handling	Visitors	Handling sessions are staff and volunteer only. Visitors observe from outside the pen behind the barrier; no public halter work.	Low
Animal-related injury (bite, kick, knock, trample)	Visitors, volunteers, staff	Only pre-selected, temperament-assessed animals used for contact. Supervised at all times, minimum 1 trained handler per 8 participants. No entry to enclosures without a handler. Animals unsuitable for contact segregated and signed.	Low
Zoonotic infection (E. coli O157, cryptosporidium, salmonella)	All participants, especially under-5s, pregnant and immunosuppressed people	Hand-wash stations with hot water, soap and paper towels at every animal area. Supervised hand washing after contact and before eating. No eating, drinking or hand-to-mouth in animal areas. Signage per PHE/HSE AIS23.	Low
Slips, trips and falls on uneven, wet or muddy ground	All participants	Route walked and checked before arrival. Sturdy footwear required. Wet or churned areas closed off. Spillages and hazards cleared before the group moves through.	Low
Vehicles and machinery on site	All participants	No tractor or machinery movement while groups are on site unless banksman-controlled. Pedestrian routes marked; parking segregated from animal areas.	Low
Fire or emergency evacuation	All participants	Fire evacuation procedure FEP-01 briefed on arrival. Assembly point identified. Head-count register kept by group leader. Emergency vet and 999 contact details displayed.	Low

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Adverse weather (heat, cold, wind, storms)	All participants	Weather checked morning of visit. Shaded and sheltered areas available; drinking water provided. Visit postponed for high wind, storms or extreme heat.	Low

Additional arrangements

- Emergency arrangements: first aider on site during all visits; first aid kit at the yard office; nearest A&E University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire; site address and what3words displayed at the assembly point.
- Group leaders retain duty of care for their own members and must supply ratios, medical and consent information before the visit.
- All visitors complete the visitor waiver and assumption of risk before activities. Volunteers must have completed induction, the safety quiz and SSOW-01.
- This assessment is read alongside HSP-01 Health and Safety Policy, FEP-01 Fire Evacuation Procedure, RA015 General visit and feeding, and MAP-01 Site map.
- Review: annually, after any incident or near miss, or when the activity, animals, group or site changes.

Signed (assessor): _____

Date: _____

Group leader briefed (signature): _____