

Risk assessment for group visits.

Hazard	Precautions and advice
Traffic in car park	We warn drivers to keep to a slow speed, but the car park is still the most dangerous area of the zoo. Please keep children together and conduct them as a group to the entrance.
Trips, slips or falls	Slips and trips are the most common cause of accidents. Please ensure children do not run around as this scares animals too.
Sand in eyes	The sand area next to the meerkats has buried fossils for the children to uncover. There are chained brushes to help with this. Please ensure sand is not thrown about.
Lost children	A lost child should be reported promptly to any member of staff, who will then radio for a site search. The teacher should then head for reception, where the child would be brought. We are a small center and the only public entrance to and from the zoo is past the reception desk. As routes to the inside and outside section all lead back through this area, this is the best place for a teacher to be in the event of losing a pupil.

Animal related injuries

From contact sessions	Animals selected for handling sessions are of a quiet disposition and incapable of causing serious injury. Nevertheless, please ensure that staff instructions are followed carefully.
From animals in enclosures	Small mammals can nip and birds can peck fingers poked through enclosure mesh. More dangerous animals are behind solid barriers. Supervising adults should ensure that children keep fingers out of enclosures.
From animals in walkthrough enclosures	The lemur walkthrough enclosure carries the highest potential risk for an actual bite. The small group of ring-tailed lemurs are all non-aggressive individuals – even so, lemurs are not pets and they don't appreciate being handled. Lemurs have sufficient brains to keep out of childrens' reach – provided there is no food involved. So please make sure that no food is brought into the lemur enclosure, as the signs warn.
From infection	Our animals are checked regularly for potential infections. Hand washing facilities or bacterial gel (with reminding signs) are available at every close contact area. Do ensure the children use them and always wash their hands before eating.



Zoo rules

- Please no shouting, running, banging on glass, teasing or touching animals. You are visiting *their* home.
- Barriers are in place for the animals' protection as well as yours. Keep to your side and don't climb on them.
- Do not feed our animals unless the keeper says you can. Each animal gets carefully calculated amounts of its own special diet. Our food can make them ill.

When ushering groups through the double doors into the walk through aviary or lemur enclosures, please ensure that both doors are not held open at the same time to prevent escapes.

We reserve the right to ask anyone who breaks these rules to leave.