

STA FERRET RESCUE RISK ASSESSMENT FORM 2015

Organisation Name :	STA Ferret Rescue
Responsible Person:	Claire Shuttleworth/Roy Shuttleworth
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Date Assessment Undertaken:	11th April 2015
Purpose:	Provision of Ferret Racing/Roulette and Ferret Public Relation activities at Public and Corporate Events. Including, where agreed, sale of and the giving of prizes of ferret related merchandise and goods for the purpose of raising funds for the Charity STA Rescue. Registered charity no. 1075974
Public Liability Insurance:	STA Ferret Rescue is a branch of the British Federation of Ferret Welfares (BFFW). Public Liability Insurance to the sum of £5,000,000 has been arranged with Zurich Insurance plc through the BFFW enabling us to attend and conduct ferret racing and public relation events, and operate the rescue.

***Hazard Severity Rating:** **1 – Negligible** (remote possibility of harm) **2 – Marginal** (slight injury, minor first aid) **3 – Slightly dangerous** (some injury, not too serious)
4 – Dangerous (serious injury or damage) **5 – Very dangerous** (could cause death or widespread injuries)

****Hazard Probability Rating:** **1 – Improbable** (unlikely to happen) **2 – Remote** (may occur at some time) **3 – Possible** (likely to occur at some time)
4 – Probably (very likely to occur) **5 – Very probably** (very likely to occur soon)

HAZARD	HAZARD SEVERITY RATING*	HAZARD PROBABILITY RATING**	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROLS TO MINIMISE RISK
Fire hazard	5	Remote	Owners Public Ferrets	A) A fire extinguisher to be on hand at all times B) Smoking to be strictly prohibited by stand members/members of the public. It is law to exhibit 'no smoking' signs
Marquee structural failure	3	Remote	Owners Public Ferrets	A) Guy ropes and ground pegs to be used to fix marquee firmly to ground B) Extra guy ropes/tethers to be used in extreme weather conditions
Tripping/falls...	3	Remote	Owners Public	A) Guy ropes, tethers and ground pegs to have reflective markers attached to them at all times
Tables collapsing	2	Remote	Owners Ferrets	A) Ensure tables are good quality and in working order and have catches locked in place to avoid collapse. B) If wind picks up ensure tables are not resting against marquee sides and apply side ropes to prevent wind movement knocking cages off tables.
Chairs	2	Remote	Owners	A) Owners are responsible for providing and ensuring the safety of their own

collapsing/Falling over				chairs which are not to be used by the public
Being scratched by a ferret	1	Remote	Owners Public	A) Owners to trim claws at least 4 days prior to the show to help minimise scratching. B) Advise before handing ferrets over for handling experiences to people that they may scratch.
Being bitten by a ferret	2 - 3	Remote	Owners Public	A) Erect caution signs B) Rope off all cages/marquee and race area C) Post warning signs on cages that ferrets may bite D) Only use well-handled ferrets that are not known to bite for public relations activities such as Stroke a Ferret. E) Present ferrets to the public - back first - advising not to 'lunge' hands/face towards ferrets head, eyes, mouth, etc. F) Strictly supervise younger children whilst touching/stroking a ferret G) Solely owners call on whether ferrets can be handled by members of the public of 14 years and older. We do not allow children under the age of 14 to handle ferrets on their own due to our insurance restrictions. H) In the event a member of the public is bitten by a ferret then they will need to be directed to the First Aiders provided by the show organisers at the event.
Zoonotics	1	Remote	Owners Public Ferrets	A) Ferrets that have been ill (either with colds, stomach upsets or generally under the weather) during the week leading up to the event or is ill on the day, should not be brought to the event (this is mainly a precautionary measure for the ferret itself as well as those ferrets attending). B) Hand gels will be made available to owners the public so that they can use this after stroking/handling ferrets. C) Owners should not attend shows if they have flu-like symptoms for the sake of other owners, the public and the ferrets.
Ferret health issues at the show	1 - 5	Remote	Ferrets	A) Heat Stroke (Sev. Rating 5) on hot days -thermometers will be placed in the Marquee and outside arena to monitor temperature. - Owners are responsible for ensuring their ferrets have plenty of water available in their cages for the ferrets to cool themselves off with by drinking and also flicking water onto themselves from bowls and other means to cool down (such as granite/marble slabs, ice blocks and fans) - Where temperatures reach/exceed 26°C outside ferrets will cease to be paraded around the race course while bets are taken but may still race at the owners discretion (the race tubes have a special coating to reflect the heat) - Where temperatures reach/exceed 28°C outside racing and PR with ferrets will be halted for the safety of the ferrets.

				<p>- Any ferrets exhibiting signs of heat stroke will immediately be removed from public view, gently cooled, have fluids applied orally to help hydration and then taken straight away by the owner to a vets.</p> <p>B) Stress – Where a ferret exhibits stress it will immediately be removed from public view so as to remove it from the cause of the stress (if this is noise/crowd related) and calming techniques used by the owner to make it comfortable. If this does not work then the owner will remove the ferret from the show.</p> <p>C) Other ailments/injuries - Will initially be treated/assessed with field first aid, then if necessary the ferret will be taken straight by the owner to a vet.</p> <p>NOTE – the ferrets health and wellbeing will take priority, and in any doubt veterinary assistance will be sought.</p> <p>D) Staying overnight – Ferrets will be housed in their cages in the Marquee overnight (unless alternative suitable accommodation is offered by the event organisers). The STA Ferret Rescue van will need to remain with the marquee overnight, and owners be able to camp within easy reach of the marquee to ensure the safety and cater to the welfare of the ferrets.</p>
Prizes not suitable	1	Remote	Public	<p>A) Where non-monetary prizes are offered for races, these will be of good quality safe materials and fit for purpose. It will be clearly advertised/explained at the start of the race/roulette what the costs of tickets are and what the prizes will be for a winning ticket.</p> <p>B) Where Fursty Ferret Ale is offered as a prize for adults over the age of 18, the winners will, if they look younger, be asked to provide suitable identification to prove their age (driving licence, credit card) if they cannot provide this then they will be given double their winning ticket money instead. Fursty Ferret Ale can only be given as a prize; it must not be sold to anyone.</p>
Ferret collectibles or merchandise of poor quality	1	Improbable	Public	<p>A) All ferret collectables (keyrings, postcards, greeting cards etc.) and other merchandise (designer textiles, jewellery, soft toys etc) used to raise funds for the rescue will be of good quality safe materials and fit for purpose.</p>

PLEASE NOTE that as the entertainment provided involves animals, the welfare and wellbeing of these animals will take priority. We would request that provision is made for the STA Ferret Rescue van to remain on site with the Marquee during the day (and certainly overnight, if the event necessitates an overnight stay) as the van contains both backup equipment and items essential for the wellbeing of the ferrets that may need to be accessed quickly during the day.