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## RISK ASSESSMENT

### **Brief**

To attend your event whatever the theme or occasion. All donkeys are fully licensed and vetted by Blackpool Borough Council, Kirklees Metropolitan Council, the RSPCA and our own Veterinary Surgeon. The donkeys will be available for rides to children from the ages of one year to fifteen years, bearing in mind their weight and height.

The rides will be over a distance of around 60-80 yards and last up to around 5 minutes. The donkeys will be attached together and under the supervision of a person aged sixteen years or over, with relevant experience of handling donkeys.

We also hold public liability insurance up to the value of £5,000,000 and each of our staff hold valid, enhanced DBS certificates.

### **Potential Issues Arising**

#### **I. A young child falling off a donkey whilst the ride is in progress**

This is very unlikely to occur as all rides are supervised and observed throughout by a responsible person. Riders however are encouraged at all times to hold onto the yellow bar attached to the saddle and also if appropriate young and vulnerable riders must be accompanied by their parent, guardian or carer to support their balance during the ride and to assist in their supervision. If this request is refused and it is deemed to be unsafe to continue, the rider will not commence and the rider will be asked to dismount.

Riding hats are available upon request.

#### **II. A child or adult being bitten by a donkey**

This could only occur if the person hand is placed in the donkey's mouth. If this happens the donkey will assume it is being fed. Donkeys are not malicious animals but it would be a natural instinct believing you had food in your hand. The donkeys are supervised at all times by members of staff with relevant training and experience and proper advice is given to prevent this from happening.

#### **III. Is it possible that the donkeys become scared?**

Yes, but very unlikely. The donkeys are very sensible, laid back and content and contrary to belief they are intelligent animals. They will only protect themselves if they feel threatened or they are hurt. They are used to working in Blackpool on the beach and many other large events and are familiar with associated noises of funfair rides, people shouting, traffic and



other vehicular noise. The one thing that they are content with is a sudden unexplained movement or noise i.e. from a large ride, loudspeaker or generator. I have worked at Blackpool now for over 16 seasons and have never had an occasion of the above occurring.

**IV. The donkeys leaving droppings on the floor and someone slipping**

All the donkeys mess will be cleaned up by the operator at the earliest opportunity. If it occurs when the donkeys are giving a ride, the droppings will be cleared up as soon as the children have dismounted the donkeys. Obviously, safety comes first and the children on the donkeys cannot be left unattended. From experience donkey's droppings are not an issue and can be dealt with adequately when they occur. All waste will be placed in bin liners and placed next to the waste bins unless otherwise instructed.

**V. Transportation of donkeys to site**

Donkeys will be transported to your event by a trailer or horsebox where applicable. We will require access to our operating area and the possibility that the vehicle will have to be parked up whilst we are present at the event (This will be advised at the time of booking)

**VI. Feeding and watering of donkeys**

Donkeys like a routine and prefer to keep to this as much as possible. The donkeys get that supplements twice a day when fully working i.e. morning and evening. Whilst in taking part in the events no supplements will be given. If the event doesn't exceed six hours, however if weather conditions deteriorate regular breaks will be given for samples to be loosened and rests for shade. Carrots and sugar lumps for treats are always on hand. With regards to availability of water donkeys are historically known as working animals and are happiest when doing this.

Donkeys originally from Somalia where the temperature is quite higher than what they would encounter here in the UK. Donkeys tend to drink on the evening in large quantities and store water within their bodies. Contrary to what people believe they can continue quite comfortable without water.

However, to please public perception and beliefs water will always be provided. (we may need you to supply this if required)

**VII. If a donkey becomes ill whilst at an event**

In the unlikely event of this occurring all staff are trained in relevant procedures to follow. In the first instance the donkey will be moved out of you from the public and into a quiet area to be fully assessed and if deemed necessary veterinary advice will be sought. Our preferred vets offer a 24-hour service seven days a week. Advice on transporting the donkeys back to base will also be followed.

It's company policy that transport will be available no more than 40 minutes travelling time home from any event should the need arise for transportation. Should we be attending a large agricultural event or events where many other animals are in attendance it is



legislation for the local authority to provide a qualified veterinary surgeon on site so they can be contacted in an emergency.

**VIII. If a member of Real Donkeys staff was to become ill or has to leave unexpectedly**

As stated above transportation is never more than 40 minutes travelling time away from any event so this can be dealt with in the best possible way. We do our very best to deal with the situation effectively in the best possible way minimising disruption to your event.

**IX. Toilet breaks for staff in attendance**

Prior to booking and on arrival at site we will make arrangements if required with yourselves for competent person of server to look after the donkeys for a matter of minutes whilst toilet breaks are taken. It may also be preferable if possible to be situated close to or have easy access to toilet facilities.

**X. All staff hold current and enhanced DBS certificates**

**XI. Is it necessary for hands to be cleaned after coming into contact with the donkeys?**

All of our donkeys are always turned out to the highest of standards is and kept very clean. However due to the nature of the animals you may feel it is necessary for hygiene precautions to be taken. Therefore, we can provide antibacterial gel for anyone who comes into contact with the donkeys to use as they wish.

**All the staff have completed and signed and working structure covering all aspects of working with the donkeys and the general public prior to commencing work with real donkeys. This can be provided and viewed upon request.**

Prepared and Completed by

Mark Ineson (Owner)

*Mark Ineson*

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