



Syon Park
Brentford
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www.tropicalzoo.org

Teachers Risk Assessment Information for The Tropical Zoo

Frequently Asked Questions:-

Does The Tropical Zoo expose children to water?

The Tropical Zoo does have four open ponds (See map for locations) so care must be taken around these ponds and children supervised at all times.

Could any floor surfaces at The Tropical Zoo be slippery i.e. due to water?

We ensure that floor surfaces are dry wherever possible. The nature of the exhibition means that sometimes there may be wet patches. Care needs to be taken when surfaces are wet.

Are the children going to be exposed to unnecessary risk when encountering our animals?

Our animals are handled by experienced Rangers who know the animals intimately and they are well versed in the animal's body language. They will know if an animal is upset or stressed. In which case the animal is not handled. A vet inspects all our animals once week and the animals are bathed every time before meeting the children. All children (without exception) will be made to use our anti-bacterial hand wash before they leave the lecture theatre, even if they have not touched any animal. The anti-bacterial hand wash we use is a Chlorhexidine Hand rub called Vetasept approved by hospitals and veterinary surgeons. This hand wash is also available at several points throughout the exhibition and can be used at anytime.

Will the children be forced to touch the animals during the talk?

When the Ranger opens the talk, he will tell the children they do not have to touch any animals if they do not wish to. If the teachers would not like the children to touch the animals – just tell the ranger at the beginning of the talk.

Are the children going to be able to touch animals they are not supposed to?

All our parrots are hand-tame so they are not kept in cages. Most are out of reach but care should be taken around these animals that the children are not reaching up to try and stroke them. There are warning signs on all these cages.

How many Teachers should we bring to supervise the children?

It is left to the discretion of the school how many teachers they want to supervise the children. We allow the school's set ratio free of charge.

Normally school outing ratio is:

Ages 0-3 years Ratio: 1 Teacher / Adult: to every 3 Children 1:3

Ages 4-6 years Ratio: 1 Teacher / Adult: to every 4 Children 1:4

Over 6 years Ratio: 1 Teacher / Adult: to every 6 Children 1:6

How hot is it in The Tropical Zoo?

We are a replica Rainforest and regulate a temperature of approximately 27 degrees centigrade. Please bring plenty of water for the children, as we are not allowed to provide it.

What are the medical provisions on-site?

Syon Park has two First Aiders and so there is always a qualified First Aider available.

Are there any traffic hazards, if so how are these minimised?

The Tropical Zoo does not have any vehicles on its' site but you may need to cross the car park to reach the toilets or Snakes and Ladders. The car park is for Syon Park attractions only, so while it is not as busy as a public car park there can be some cars so care must be taken.

Is there an area for the children to leave their belongings?

Yes, they can leave their bags in our large containers, which are available at the main entrance. Please note that all belonging are left at their own risk.

Is there a team of trained staff members on-hand at all time and briefed in emergency procedures?

All staff are comprehensively trained in what to do in an emergency.

Is the attraction inspected on a daily basis for any hazards?

Yes, by a qualified member of staff.

The quality and safety of our attraction is of the utmost importance and therefore a considerable amount of time and effort is spent on making all visits a safe and fun experience.

Legal Requirements:

Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974 – This is the principle Act that applies to the company and is to ensure that all workers in all occupations are protected by law. Its purpose is to provide one comprehensive integrated system of law, dealing with health, safety and welfare of employees and members of the public who are affected by work activities. The Act is written in very general terms and does not require many specific requirements for managing health and safety at work. Instead, the Act places a general duty on employers to provide safe systems of work that are so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health.

- The Company's last health and safety inspection was on 8th November 2007.
- Risk Assessments are undertaken by a Health and Safety Manager. Risk Assessments are reviewed at least annually or if any significant change takes place with regard to a work activity or area of work.
- The Tropical Zoo is covered by Public Liability Insurance.

Zoo Licence:

Even though we are not a zoo, The Tropical Zoo is operated under strict licensing conditions as established within the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. A dedicated team of experienced zookeepers cares for the collection of birds, mammal's amphibians, fish and reptiles.

NB: Please note that The Tropical Zoo employ a full-time Health and Safety Manager (Alice Purdy) who facilitates the company's commitment and compliance with health and safety legislation. For any other information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Map showing ponds with open water – care must be taken.

