

MIOSHI PARK ALPACAS Risk Assessment

1. Background Information

This risk assessment is based on the Mioshi Park Alpacas interacting with the public, host and guests at weddings and other events that they are attending including, but not limited to, birthday and engagement parties, corporate events, promotions, schools, aged care facilities, hospitals and hospices, educational events, show, fetes and expos etc

2. Risk Assessment

Identify and list Hazards		List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating
1	Alpacas may kick or push someone/something over resulting in possible injuries or breakages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alpacas are generally a gentle and placid animal, they are unable to bite (like any a dog or pony) as they do not have top teeth, they have a top "pad" and bottom teeth so if they do (usually by accident) bite someone it is not severe Alpacas do not have solid hooves like ponies or claws like dogs or cats, they have soft pads with 2 toe nails on each hoof. Regular husbandry practices ensures that the alpacas toenails are trimmed as required Mioshi Park Alpacas prides itself on breeding gentle, calm and well trained alpacas, all alpacas are halter trained and handled to ensure that they are gentle and placid around humans The alpacas are desensitised to different environments due to the training they receive and most of them are shown extensively, this means that they are introduced to strange environments and have lots of interaction with crowds and strangers touching them all over The experienced handlers have dealt with numerous situations with the alpacas and are usually able to pre-determine if a situation may be hazardous and remove the alpaca prior to an adverse event In the case of an injury occurring to the public or guests, the owner and main handler is a Registered Nurse with extensive first aid and emergency experience and can respond accordingly 	Low

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2. Risk Assessment			
	Identify and list Hazards	List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first aid kit for people and also alpacas is always available on site • Mioshi Park Alpacas has appropriate public liability and general insurance 	
2	As with all animals, alpacas may display unpredictable behaviours resulting in harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experienced handlers have dealt with numerous situations with the alpacas and are usually able to pre-determine if a situation may be hazardous and remove the alpaca prior to an adverse event • In the event of an adverse behaviour occurring, a risk assessment will be conducted immediately to determine whether the alpaca should be removed from the venue (or at least back to the float). A further risk assessment will be made once off site to determine whether the alpaca is suitable to continue being part of the wedding and events program. 	Low
3	Touching any animal may result in the transfer of micro-organisms from animal to person in addition to person to animal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alpacas are all appropriately vaccinated, provided with appropriate vitamins (including regular doses of ADE according to best practice) and healthy and all husbandry practices are conducted. Body scores, teeth, growing rate, fleece quality etc are all monitored which indicates that the alpacas are healthy • Mioshi Park is registered as Q-Alpaca Status, this is a quality assurance program maintained by the Australian Alpaca Association. Alpaca growers who participate in Q Alpaca work with MAP-approved veterinarians. • The program is designed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage easier and more affordable diagnosis monitoring, and management of known diseases ○ Give maximum reduction of risk that a defined 	Low

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	Identify and list Hazards	List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating
		<p>Emergency Animal Disease (such as Foot and Mouth Disease) could affect your herd in the event of an outbreak in Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure your alpaca herd remains healthy, by agreeing that any death within your herd is professionally investigated by the same approved veterinarian ○ Ensure there is a minimal chance of taking certain preventable infections and infestations to your client's herd, as well as preventing the introduction of these conditions to your herd. Examples of such conditions include Johne's Disease (JD), severe worm infestation, liver disease, gastric ulceration, liver fluke infestation, and coccidiosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple infection control precautions such as practicing hand hygiene before and after touching animals is the most simple and effective way of preventing transfer of micro-organisms • The owner and main handler of the alpacas has a Graduate Certificate in Infection Control in addition to working within the area of infection control, infectious diseases and immunisation for 20 plus years so is well acquainted with the prevention and transmission of infectious diseases 	
4	Guests may slip on alpaca urine or faeces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpacas do not generally like to toilet unless they are in a comfortable environment, generally where other alpacas have toileted before. They are not like horses or dogs that toilet where ever and when ever they need to. Alpacas will "hold on" until somewhere suitable is found • In the event that an alpaca does toilet where guests and the public are the area will be quickly cleaned as per the venues guidelines, the venue should have guidelines in place for fluid spills 	Low

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	Identify and list Hazards	List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mioshi Park Alpacas always carries a scoop to remove faeces and a small hand held wet and dry vacuum cleaner (if alpacas will be indoors) 	
5	Alpacas may escape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All halters and leads are regularly checked and maintained to prevent breakages and checked again once they are on the alpaca to ensure that they have been placed properly and safely on the alpaca All lead ropes have a handle which is placed over the hand to ensure that in the event that the lead comes out of the person's hand that the handle is still over the hand to enable the person to regain control of the lead Guests are carefully instructed on to how to hold the lead rope and the handler ensures that the handle is slipped over the guests hand Children are encouraged to lead the alpaca, the handler will assess the risk and determine whether a double lead is required (ie the child and the handler both have a lead and the handler is in control at all times) 	Low
6	Alpacas may be at risk of attack from unrestrained dogs or other animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there are unrestrained dogs or other animals at the venue a risk assessment will be undertaken to determine the suitability of the alpacas to remain on site 	Low
7	Venue may have surfaces, stairs or inclines that are not safe for alpacas to walk on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alpacas are very tolerant to strange and unusual surfaces, however polished floors especially with inclines are not safe for alpacas, an alternative place for the alpacas to interact will be discussed with the host The alpacas have not been trained to go up and down stairs or escalators, an alternative will be discussed with the host. The alpacas would not have a problem using lifts 	Low

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	Identify and list Hazards	List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating
8	The venue may contain items such as flowers, plants or food that are poisonous or not healthy for alpacas to eat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alpacas will always be in control by their handler and the handler will prevent them from eating things that they shouldn't In the event that the alpaca does take a sneaky bite of something, they will be assessed for adverse effects and veterinary treatment will be sought as required 	Low
9	The environment may contain loud, unexpected noises with items that the alpacas are not familiar with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mioshi Park Alpacas prides itself on breeding gentle, calm and well trained alpacas, all alpacas are halter trained and handled to ensure that they are gentle and placid around humans The alpacas are desensitised to different environments due to the training they receive and most of them are shown extensively, this means that they are introduced to strange environments and have lots of interaction with crowds and strangers touching them all over Due to bond between alpaca and handler, the handler is able to quickly determine if a particular situation, noise or item is causing stress to the alpaca which will result in quickly removing the alpaca from the situation 	Low
10	Guests or the public may "rush" or "swamp" the alpacas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mioshi Park Alpacas prides itself on breeding gentle, calm and well trained alpacas, all alpacas are halter trained and handled to ensure that they are gentle and placid around humans The alpacas are desensitised to different environments due to the training they receive and most of them are shown extensively, this means that they are introduced to strange environments and have lots of interaction with crowds and 	Low

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Identify and list Hazards		List Current Risk Controls	Risk Rating
		<p>strangers touching them all over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The handlers are very use to having crowds descend upon then alpacas and are able to maintain a professional and polite, but firm manner, to ask the public/guests to approach calmly and a few at a time to ensure that crowds do not stress the alpacas • Clear and friendly advice is provided by the experienced handler to the public and guests as to how to approach and pat, handle or lead the alpaca in a safe manner 	
11	The environmental weather conditions may not be conducive to alpaca safety or comfort such as heat or rain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alpacas health and welfare always comes first, an assessment of the risks associated with adverse weather conditions will be undertaken on the day (or as soon as forecasted) to determine whether the session needs to be cancelled/postponed for the safety of the alpacas, handlers and guests. • Cancellations due to adverse weather conditions will be outline in the Terms and Conditions of alpaca hire 	Low
12	Venue parking and alpaca loading and unloading may not be suitable, ie too far, not enough room for float, busy road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue/host to arrange and/or assist in vehicle passage and safe parking • Mark off area for float parking • Venue and parking arrangements may require a pre-assessment visit to determine suitability 	Low

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1. Consequence - Evaluate the consequences of a risk occurring according to the ratings in the top row

Descriptor	Level	Definition
Insignificant	1	No injury
Minor	2	Injury/ ill health requiring first aid
Moderate	3	Injury/ill health requiring medical attention
Major	4	Injury/ill health requiring hospital admission
Severe	5	Fatality

2. Likelihood - Evaluate the **likelihood** of an incident occurring according to the ratings in the left hand column

Descriptor	Level	Definition
Rare	1	May occur somewhere, sometime (“once in a life time / once in a hundred years”)
Unlikely	2	May occur somewhere within the Department over an extended period of time
Possible	3	May occur several times across the Department or a region over a period of time
Likely	4	May be anticipated multiple times over a period of time May occur once every few repetitions of the activity or event
Almost Certain	5	Prone to occur regularly It is anticipated for each repetition of the activity of event

3. Risk Matrix – Using the matrix calculate the level of **risk** by finding the intersection between the likelihood and the consequences

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost Certain	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

4. Risk Level/Rating and Actions

Descriptor	Definition
Extreme:	Corrective actions should be taken immediately. Cease associated activity.
High:	Corrective actions should be taken within 48 hours of notification.
Medium:	Ensure corrective action is taken within 7 days.
Low	Ensure corrective action is taken within a reasonable time.