



Risk Assessment: Equine Assisted Therapy (Non-Ridden)

Activity: Equine Assisted Therapy (Non-Ridden)
Location: Stoke Lane Stables
Assessment carried out by: Kate Kirkpatrick, Proprietor
Date: 01/01/2026
Review date: 01/01/2027

Risk Rating Key:

- **Likelihood (L):** 1 = Low, 2 = Medium, 3 = High
- **Severity (S):** 1 = Minor, 2 = Serious, 3 = Major
- **Risk Rating (R = L × S):**
 - 1-2 Low
 - 3-4 Medium
 - 6-9 High

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Existing control measures	Likelihood (L)	Severity (S)	Risk Rating (R)	Further action required
Horse behaviour (kicking, biting, spooking)	Participants, associates, volunteers	Calm horses selected; supervision; safety briefings; safe positioning	2	3	6	Monitor horse suitability
Handling / leading horses	Participants, associates	Training provided; associates assist; appropriate equipment	2	2	4	Refresher training
Slips, trips, falls	All persons	Yard maintained; appropriate footwear; hazards removed	2	2	4	Daily checks
Uneven ground	Participants	Routes assessed; supervised movement	2	2	4	Adjust in poor conditions

Manual handling	Associates, volunteers	Associates handle heavy items; participants limited tasks	1	2	2	Training for associates
Allergies	Participants, associates	Medical info collected; medication available	2	2	4	Emergency plan review
Infection / hygiene	All	Handwashing; no eating in yard; wounds covered	1	2	2	Add signage
Emotional distress	Participants	Pre-assessment; trained facilitators; safe space	2	2	4	Ongoing training
Weather conditions	All	Appropriate clothing; shelter; water provided	2	2	4	Monitor forecast
Safeguarding risks	Vulnerable participants	DBS associates; safeguarding policy; supervision	2	3	6	Training updates
Loose horse	All	Gates secured; trained handlers	1	3	3	Emergency drills
Fire / emergency	All	Fire plan; extinguishers; assembly point	1	3	3	Annual drill
First aid response	All	First aider; kit available; contacts recorded	1	3	3	Regular checks