



Zorgbeest

12. Safety

- Farm animals:



- Chickens have sharp claws and can peck hard.
- When rewarding the chicken: do not let the chicken eat out of your hand. Offer the reward (e.g. rice or grain) in a tray or pot.
- Wear protective clothing when they are in your arms or on your lap (e.g. a pair of loose sleeves made of heavy fabrics like denim).



- Try to avoid fearful flight responses as much as possible.
- Always take care of falling from heights (e.g. lap, table), ensure that the rabbit cannot jump or fall down.
- Ensure the rabbit cannot escape when he or she runs free.
- Preferably opt for a solid basket to put the rabbit on the patients' lap and to offer the rabbit a firm footing.
- It is important not to let the rabbit gnaw at or eat anything.



- Prevent objects from being overturned and ensure the goat cannot gnaw at anything.
- Be vigilant for escapes. Never allow the goat to stand on the hind legs with the front legs up against you. This annoying and potentially hazardous behaviour (for small children and fragile people) should not be encouraged.



- Pigs are extremely sensitive to stress.
- Stress quickly leads to displaying stereotype behaviours and should be prevented as much as possible.
- Continuously monitor the set boundaries when working with a pig. Never feed pigs by hand.

The handler:

- takes all precautions to guarantee the safety of all those who interact with the animal (Kohler, 2011).
- Screens the patient before he or she is introduced to the animal.
- informs the patient (or posters can be hung in rooms, waiting areas, AAI area, etc.)



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about:

- approaching the different species of farm animals correctly
- recognising signs of stress
- how to prevent a bite, scratch or being kicked
- never leaves the patient alone with the animals.
- is extra cautious when children interact with the animals, regardless of the animal species.
- is aware of the procedure describing what actions must be taken if someone is wounded by an animal.
- Stops the session if someone is bitten (Lefebvre et al., 2008).
- Immediately reports to the care takers if someone is bitten, so bite- or scratch wounds can be cleaned and disinfected (Lefebvre et al., 2008).
- ensures that those who interact with the animal do so appropriately (do not pull the animal's tail, ears, etc.) (Kohler, 2011; Sterneberg-van der Maaten et al., 2015).
- stops the session if the patient shows inappropriate behaviour towards the animal(s).
- checks the safety doors or double doors before the session starts so that the animals cannot escape.
- ensures there are no small objects within reach of the animals that could be swallowed or cause choking (Kohler, 2011).

The AAI environment:

- The environment must be safe for both animals and humans e.g. no slippery floors, dangerous stairways or stoves and free of sharp edges, glass objects or loose or foreign materials (food, medication..).
- Be aware: some floors become extremely slippery when water has been spilled.
- Secure the area well to prevent escapes.