

## Dealing With Aggressive Pets Risk Assessment

Business Name:	ABN:	
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

## THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

## CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date Risk Assessment supplied to Project Manager:	

## RISK MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	<b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	Isolation Isolate People from the hazard
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard <b>Administrative</b> Change
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	PPE

### Risk Rating & Required Action:

<b>4A</b>	Stop work. The risk is intolerable. Eliminate the hazard or redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or higher-level authorisation is required.
<b>3H</b>	Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
<b>2M</b>	Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.
<b>1L</b>	Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.

### Consequence Scale:

Consequence	People (injury/illness)	Project / Assets	Compliance / Reputation
<b>Catastrophic</b>	Fatality or permanent total disability	project shutdown	Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution
<b>Major</b>	Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)	critical delay	Improvement notice; major media coverage
<b>Moderate</b>	Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day	moderate delay	Minor breach; adverse client comment
<b>Minor</b>	First-aid only, no lost time	negligible delay	Isolated non-conformance
<b>Insignificant</b>	No injury	no schedule impact	Deviation caught and corrected on site

### Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:

Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:

1. **Eliminate**
2. **Substitute**
3. **Isolate**
4. **Engineering**
5. **Administrative**
6. **PPE**

Always document **why** a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.

aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Preparation	Lack of knowledge, Inadequate equipment	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a thorough training session for all staff handling pets</li> <li>- Ensure all equipment is checked for functionality and safety before use</li> <li>- Provide access to updated handling guides and protocols</li> <li>- Conduct a pre-engagement site assessment to identify potential risks</li> <li>- Verify the history and temperament of the animal before intervention</li> <li>- Conduct regular refresher courses for staff on handling aggressive animals</li> <li>- Implement a buddy system for handling known aggressive pets</li> <li>- Assign experienced handlers to high risk tasks</li> <li>- Develop an emergency response plan tailored for animal-related incidents</li> <li>- Confirm availability and accessibility of safety gear at all times</li> </ul>	2M
2. Arrival	Unpredictable behaviour, Inadequate safety briefing	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Announce your arrival calmly and avoid sudden movements</li> <li>- Allow the animal to become familiar with your presence before engagement</li> <li>- Ensure a briefing on the animal's behaviour and safety procedures is conducted on site</li> <li>- Keep the animal in a secure environment during initial contact</li> <li>- Ensure all staff involved are aware of emergency exits and safety protocols</li> <li>- Maintain continuous communication with the animal's owner or caretaker</li> <li>- Avoid direct eye contact with the pet to prevent perceived threat</li> <li>- Wear protective clothing such as gloves and long sleeves</li> <li>- Avoid handling aggressive pets during feeding times</li> <li>- Ensure all escape routes are closed off or monitored</li> </ul>	2M
3. Handling Equipment Setup	Incorrect setup, Faulty tools	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Test all equipment for safety and proper function before use</li> <li>- Follow manufacturer's guidelines for setup meticulously</li> <li>- Conduct a mock demonstration to ensure setup is understood</li> <li>- Regularly inspect equipment for wear and tear</li> <li>- Secure all equipment to avoid accidental collapse</li> <li>- Ensure PPE is available and correctly fitted before initiating tasks</li> <li>- Confirm that all team members are trained in operating equipment</li> <li>- Store equipment safely when not in use</li> </ul>	2M

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			- Report any equipment faults immediately and resolve before use - Limit equipment use to trained personnel only	
4. Initial Approach	Threatening posture, Surrounding distractions	3H	[Redacted Control Measures]	2M
5. Securing the Pet	Strength of the animal, Improper restraint	4A	[Redacted Control Measures]	2M
6. Engaging with the Owner	Miscommunication, Owner anxiety	3H	[Redacted Control Measures]	1L

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7. Conducting the Assessment	Aggression triggers, Inconsistent behavioural history	4A		2M
8. Behavioural Testing	Unexpected aggression, unfamiliar tests	4A		2M
9. Conducting Physical Examination	Sudden movements, Fearful responses	4A		2M

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10. Handling Aggression	Bites or scratches, Escalation	4A		2M
11. Post-Interaction	Residual stress in pet, Improper documentation	3H		1L
12. Clean-Up and Sanitation	Biohazards, Allergenic reactions	3H		1L

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13. Equipment Maintenance	Equipment failure, Injuries from faulty equipment	3H		1L
14. Reporting and Feedback	Miscommunication, Inaccurate data	3H		1L
15. Continuous Improvement	Outdated procedures, Resistance to change	3H		1L

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16. Staff Wellness	Work-related stress, Injury	3H		1L
17. Emergency Preparedness	Poor response, Lack of resources	4A		1L
18. Community Engagement	Reputation risk, Public disengagement	2M		1L



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19. Record Keeping	Loss of data, Inaccurate information	2M		1L

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

### Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

### New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

### Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

### Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

### Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

### South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

### Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.