



## **Risk Assessment**

The Peaceful Pony Therapy Centre is based at two sites, operating from:  
**Burnt Mills Road, North Benfleet/Wickford , SS12 7JX**  
**Brocklands, Stock Lane, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9PB.**

**Date of Last Review: August 2023**

**Date of Next Review: August 2024 (*unless otherwise required*)**

**Name of Risk Assessors:**

Holly Lockwood-Waduge (Founding Director and Senior Practitioner)

Natasha Bee (Director, Senior Clinical Therapist)

Jolyne Ellis (Director, The Peaceful Alternative Education Lead)

Kaz Reid (Operations Lead, Therapist,)

Oversight of Assessment by:

James Young (Committee Member and Risk Assessor Specialist)

Hazard	Who is at Risk	Likelihood	Risk Evaluation/ Control Measures	Further Reading
Horses	Anyone	Low/Medium	<p>Experienced handlers are always present.</p> <p>Induction and introduction to the horses given to all new people, including clients &amp; visitors engaging with The Peaceful Pony horses.</p> <p>The Peaceful Pony horses are well handled and assessed regularly for activities.</p> <p><u>Whilst on the Yard:</u> Three clients (age 5 upwards) clients per one member of The Peaceful Pony horses and always supervised directly.</p> <p>Therapeutic supervised activities with horses only-</p> <p><u>Whilst Walking Horses:</u> One client (age five upwards) per one Member of staff only. Head collar and Lead rope to always be used.</p> <p><u>Field with Horses:</u> Ratio of one Client per member of horse in the field at one time. Clients are not permitted to climb on fences or walk through fields where horses are/grazing under any circumstance</p> <p><b>First Aid Qualified member of staff &amp; First Aid Kit/book on site in Tack Room (clearly labelled with accident book)</b></p>	Health & Safety Policy

Equine Stables and Fields	Anyone	Low/medium	<p>Experienced handlers present at all times.</p> <p>Induction and introduction to equines given to all new people, including clients &amp; visitors engaging with The Peaceful Pony horses.</p> <p>All clients and visitors to The Peaceful Pony must be accompanied either directly or indirectly at all times. The stables and fields are strictly prohibited otherwise.</p> <p>For Therapeutic Activities: Clients may go in the field with a horse ratio of one Client per member of horse in the field at one time. Clients are not permitted to climb on fences or walk through fields where horses are/grazing under any circumstance</p> <p><b>First Aid Qualified member of staff &amp; First Aid Kit/book on site in Tack Room (clearly labelled with accident book).</b></p>	Health & Safety Policy
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Hazard	Who is at Risk	Likelihood	Risk Evaluation/ Control Measures	Further Reading
Other animals (Cats, Therapy Dogs, rabbits, chickens, goats)	Anyone	Low	<p>Experienced handlers are present at all times.</p> <p>Induction and Introduction to animals given to all new people including clients &amp; visitors (if engaging in animal-assisted work).</p> <p>Animals are well handled, well trained (where applicable) and assessed regularly.</p> <p>Limited number of people around animals in any activity and always supervised by The Peaceful Pony Staff.</p> <p>Dogs on-site are training Therapy Dogs and will be kept under control at all times by their handler; create, lead or by their owner's side if off lead.</p> <p>Clients advised not to touch the dogs nor open/enter the areas where dogs are without full consent of supervision of dogs owner.</p> <p>Cats on the yard are free roam and clients are asked not to touch, unless at their own risk.</p> <p>First Aid Qualification &amp; First Aid Kit on site (clearly labelled with accident book)</p>	Health & Safety Policy
Equipment (including trailer, forks, shovels)	Anyone	Low	<p>Induction to yard and facilities in first meeting.</p> <p>Direct or indirect supervision at all times with regard to the access and use of equipment. Information provided on equipment safe use before use. The Peaceful Pony to be notified immediately if danger is seen and activity stopped.</p> <p>First Aid Trained Staff &amp; First Aid Kit on site (clearly marked)</p>	Health & Safety Policy

Equipment for Activities	Anyone	Low- Medium	<p>Each activity introduced by The Peaceful Pony.</p> <p>Equipment will only be manually handled after explanation provided and guidance on safe use.</p> <p>Equipment is kept clean, well maintained &amp; stored.</p> <p>The Peaceful Pony shall directly or indirectly supervise activities at all times.</p> <p>First aid trained staff &amp; first aid equipment on site (clearly signposted).</p>	Health & Safety Policy
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Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Likelihood	Risk Evaluation/Control Measures	Further Reading
Muck Heap Area	Anyone	Low/Medium	<p>Muck Heap is fenced off as an area out of bounds to clients. Signs visible to advise no unauthorised admittance.</p> <p>Either direct or indirect supervision by The Peaceful Pony at all times.</p>	Health & Safety Policy
Hay	Anyone	Low	<p>Hay is stored in a metal storage shed and is an area out of bounds to clients. Signs visible to advise no unauthorised admittance.</p> <p>Direct or indirect supervision by The Peaceful Pony at all times.</p>	Health and Safety Policy
Fire	Anyone	Low	<p>Fire Assembly Point is the nearest point to the driveways (main entrance or yard depending on location of fire).</p> <p>Induction covers fire evacuation procedures.</p> <p>Fire evacuation signs visible around site</p> <p>Fire Extinguishers on site</p> <p>No smoking allowed on site.</p>	Health and Safety Policy

Allergic Reaction	Anyone	Medium	Health issues must be raised by clients before coming on site or disclosed at induction. Staff's discretion if any disclosure stops the individual remaining on site. First Aid Trained people on-site.	
Hazardous Substances	Supervisors and inducted volunteers	Low	Access to animal medication is limited. These are located in the tack room not accessible by clients. Only those that can supervise/The Peaceful Pony have access to including but not limited to animal medication, weed killer, rat bait.	Health and Safety Policy
Building Maintenance and Repair	The Peaceful Pony	Low/Medium	Buildings being maintained are not accessible. Maintenance and repair requirements are regularly checked and resolved either directly or indirectly by The Peaceful Pony.	
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Who is at Risk?</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Risk Evaluation Control Measures</b>	<b>Further Reading</b>
Uneven Surfaces	Anyone	Medium	Uneven surfaces are everywhere on site.  The Peaceful Pony either directly or indirectly will give safety instructions during induction & ask not to run anywhere on site & take care. Health and Safety Policy in place Public Liability insurance displayed	Health & Safety Policy
Ditches	Anyone	Medium	Safety instructions shall be given during induction & outline that these are not accessible at any time. First Aid Trained Staff & First Aid Kit on site (clearly marked).	
Electric Fencing	Anyone	Low	At this current time there are no electric fences in use. To be reassessed when installed.  Induction to yard and facilities in first meeting. First Aid Trained Staff & First Aid Kit on site (clearly marked).	Health and Safety Policy

Parking	Anyone	Low	Vehicles are parked at The Peaceful Pony Therapy Centre Signs displayed through the site.	Health and Safety Policy
Visiting Schools/ visiting care homes.	Anyone	Low-Medium	<p>Experienced handlers present at all times.</p> <p>Induction and introduction to the horses given to all new people The Peaceful Pony horses are well handled and assessed regularly for activities.</p> <p>Limited numbers of people are around The Peaceful Pony horses and always supervised either directly or indirectly by The Peaceful Pony.</p> <p>Horses will be always kept on lead rope and handled only by The Peaceful Pony staff.</p> <p>Horses to be given down time in trailer and hand grazing.</p> <p>All urine and horse faeces to be removed from the visiting area by The Peaceful Pony staff.</p> <p>Horses will be continually assessed for signs of stress, if displayed horses will be removed from the interaction and placed in downtime.</p> <p>First Aid Qualification &amp; First Aid Kit on site (clearly labelled with accident book)</p> <p>Sanitising stations to be used.</p> <p>The Peaceful Pony will also be responsible for ensuring all visiting areas are safe and abiding to visiting venues policy and procedure.</p>	

ACTIVITY	NATURE OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL HAZARD	RISK MITIGATION	RISK RATING
Animal Assisted Learning and Therapy	Routine care and management. Cleaning of areas. Animal checks. Provision of food & water. Observation, grooming & contact with animals. Debriefing/Invitation of questions & answers.	Bitten Scratched Knocked over Tripping over Trod on Allergic Reaction Infection	Qualified & experienced staff.  Information on Health & Safety provided.  Animals are tame, encouraged not to bite, not fed treats and regularly assessed either directly or indirectly by The Peaceful Pony. First Aider on site Hand Sanitising facilities.	Low-Medium
Activity Days/Learning	Routine care and management of animals. Cleaning of areas. Animal checks Provision of food & water. Leading animals. Observations and interactions.	Bitten Kicked/knocked over Tripping over Allergic Reaction Infection	Qualified & experienced staff Sensible, well mannered horses. Horses matched the learner's confidence and ability. Information on health & safety provided. Supervised at all time First Aider on site Hand sanitising Facilities. COVID-19: - drying of hands with single use towels; - catch coughs and sneezes in tissues; - Social Distancing by reduction of learner numbers.	Low-Medium
Therapeutic Riding	Grooming of horse Tacking up horse Mounting of horse Riding horses.  Animal checks. Provision of food & water. Observation, grooming & contact with animals. Debriefing/Invitation of questions & answers	Bitten Scratched Kicked/knocked over Tripping over Allergic Reaction Infection Falling from horse	Qualified & experienced staff (at least one member of staff per adult and one member of staff per horse) For children, one member of staff per horse and one member of staff per child and one parent present and supporting.  Information on Health & Safety provided.  Animals are tame, encouraged not to bite, not fed treats and regularly assessed either directly or indirectly by The Peaceful Pony. First Aider on site Hand Sanitising facilities.	