

Job Safety Analysis (JSA) for the Alpaca Walks

Version 1.0: 17 July 2023

Description:

Alpaca walks involve guiding and walking alpacas with clients on designated paths or trails. The primary responsibility of the alpaca walker is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of both the clients and the alpacas during the activity.

Potential Hazards:

Trips and Falls: Uneven terrain or obstacles on the path may lead to trips and falls.

Agitated Alpacas: Alpacas can become agitated or unpredictable in certain situations.

Weather Conditions: Extreme weather conditions, such as heavy rain or heat, may pose risks to both clients and alpacas.

Client Inexperience: Some clients may not have experience handling animals, leading to potential risks.

Alpaca Kicking or Biting: Alpacas may exhibit defensive behaviour, including kicking, spitting or biting.

Allergies: Some clients or staff may be allergic to alpacas, pollen or hay.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required:

Sturdy, closed-toe footwear with good traction.

Clothing appropriate for the weather conditions, including rain gear or sun protection as needed.

Safety Procedures:

Pre-Walk Briefing:

Before starting the alpaca walk, conduct a safety briefing with all clients.

Inform clients about potential hazards and how to behave around the alpacas.

Instruct clients on how to hold the alpaca's leash properly.

Assessment of Clients:

Assess clients' physical capabilities and experience with handling animals.

Offer assistance to clients who may need extra support during the walk.

Alpaca Preparation:

Ensure that alpacas are properly trained for walking and are not showing signs of distress.

Check the equipment, such as leashes and harnesses, for any signs of damage before use.

Path Inspection:

Inspect the walking path for any potential hazards, such as holes, rocks, or overhanging branches latest 1 day before the scheduled walk.

Remove or mark any obstacles that could pose a risk during the walk.
Remove alpaca pooh where on the track.
Apply stone/metal/wood chip to the parts of the track which may be slippery.

Alpaca Interaction:

Instruct clients on how to approach, handle, and interact with the alpacas calmly and gently.
Avoid sudden movements or loud noises that may scare the animals.

Weather Monitoring:

Monitor weather conditions before and during the alpaca walk. If in doubt before the walk, advise all clients via sms message that the walk has been cancelled.
Have a plan in place for inclement weather, such as heavy rain or lightning.

Emergency Procedures:

Establish clear communication channels and emergency protocols with staff and clients.
Provide clients with instructions on what to do in case of an emergency.

First Aid:

Have a first aid kit readily available during the alpaca walk.
Ensure staff members are trained in basic first aid procedures.

Client Supervision:

Maintain a safe distance between alpacas to avoid entanglement of leashes or potential fights.
Keep a close eye on clients to prevent any unsafe behaviour, horseplay or which may trigger an aggressive alpaca response.

Allergies:

Inquire about any allergies among clients and staff beforehand.
Take appropriate measures if anyone experiences an allergic reaction.

This Job Safety Analysis will be reviewed and updated regularly to account for changes in procedures, equipment, or conditions. All staff involved in alpaca walks should be trained on these safety procedures to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Health and Safety issue log:

| Date | Observation | Trigger | Remedy/Mitigation Plan |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| Jun-22 | Alpacas got nervous at some points during the walk | New black plastic bins placed along the track to collect pooh | Moved the bins further away from the track, alpacas got used to them. |
| Jan-23 | Alpaca got spooked and pulled a customer | Our dog escaped the house accidently | Ensure that the dog stays inside while the walking activity takes place Advise customers to let go when the alpaca pulls unexpectedly as part of the initial safety briefing Ensure that the customer cannot lock their hand in the loop of the lead. Also advise not to roll the lead around their arm |
| Mar-23 | Alpacas got nervous at some points during the walk | Clothing was left behind next to the track as the weather was warm | As a learning, and in case required, clothing needs to be left behind where they are invisible to the alpacas during the walk |
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