



POLICY ON ANIMALS IN THE SETTING

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This includes contact with animals, and other living creatures, both in the setting and on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls at all times.

We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal to keep as a pet in the setting as we encourage all children to participate in their care and ask our parents/carers support by providing the occasional holiday homes.

Animals currently in the setting are pets include fish, giant African snail 'Billy' and our visiting dog 'Rosie'

To ensure we keep the children safe we:

- We ensure children are supervised during all human-animal contact
- We consult with parents to determine special considerations needed for children who are afraid , have allergies, or have asthma
- Ensure animals are inaccessible to children with pet allergies
- No aggressive or harmful animals are allowed on the premises
- All cages/containers needed for an animal care are inaccessible to children and safe
- Animals are only allowed in areas that can be cleaned and sanitized
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animals and are supervised.
- We ensure younger children do not put their hands or objects (for example pacifiers) in their mouth while interacting with animals
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Staffs wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the Manager.
- The Manager carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- We ensure animals are not allowed in kitchen and toileting areas

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

To care for our pets we:

- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We will immediately stop interaction with animal if they stressed or display harmful behaviour
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up to-date and recorded.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Reviewed By:

Date: