



## Promoting Health and Hygiene

### Animals in the Setting

#### **Policy Statement**

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the Setting or in visits. We ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

#### **Procedures**

Animals in the Setting as pets:

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the Setting.
- Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals or creatures.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- All vaccinations and health measures such as de-worming are up to date.
- 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 make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature, as well as should the animal need to be temporarily re-homed in the event the setting must close.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of the owner.

- The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed, and is responsible for it whilst it is in the Setting.
- There is appropriate pet health care insurance, or another arrangement agreed for veterinary care should something occur whilst at the Setting.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of		
Held on		(date)
Date to be reviewed		(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee		
Name of signatory		
Role of signatory		

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