



Health and safety

1.18 Animals in the setting Policy

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to 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 animal/s or creature/s to keep as pets in the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have.
- A risk assessment is conducted and considers any hygiene and safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure the housing is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- Several members of our staff are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We register with the local vet.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, are up to date.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are always supervised.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature.

- We ensure that staff and children 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 their owner.
- The manager/deputy manager can refuse the admission of any animal or creature that they consider to be dangerous or inappropriate. The children's safety is paramount at all times.

Animals brought in by visitors

- The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- No dogs on the Government's Banned Dogs list are to be brought on site at any time. All other dogs brought on site by parents/carers during arrival and departure times must be on a lead and under control. The manager reserves the right to request that a dog is not brought on site, if the animal is out of control, or likely to pose a risk.
- If staff are concerned that a family owns a dog which is on the 'banned dog' list, it is treated as a safeguarding concern and it is reported to the relevant authority and safeguarding procedures are followed.

This policy was updated on 21st July 2026, by Susannah Townley, Manager.

This policy is due to be reviewed on the 21st July 2027.