

01 Health and safety procedures

01.17 Animals and pets

Animals bought in by visitors

- The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the pre-school.
- Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
- Children are taught correct handling of the animals/creatures and are always supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animals/creatures.
- 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.

Pre-school pet, if applicable.

- Views of parents/carers and children are considered when selecting a pet for the pre-school.
- Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
- A risk assessment is conducted and considers any hygiene and safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Suitable housing for the animal is provided and is regularly cleaned and maintained.
- The correct food is offered at the right times and staff are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs.
- Arrangements are made for weekend and holiday care for the animal/creature.
- There is appropriate pet health care insurance or other contingencies agreed and put in place to pay for veterinary care and the animal is registered with a local vet.
- All vaccinations and health measures such as de-worming are up to date.
- Children are taught correct handling of the pet and are always supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the pet and do not have contact with animal faeces, or soiled bedding.
- Members of staff wear single use disposable gloves when cleaning/handling soiled bedding.

- Snakes and some other reptiles are not suitable pets for the pre-school due to infection risks.
- The manager will check with the trustees before introducing a new pet into the pre-school.

Further guidance

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

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