

Recreation Ground
Huntersfield
Stanford in the Vale
Faringdon
Oxfordshire, SN7 8LR



1.3.7 - ANIMALS IN THE SETTING POLICY

May 2015

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 through visits.

Aims

We aim to ensure that contact with animals is in accordance with hygiene and safety controls.

Legal Framework

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Procedures

Animals in the setting

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to visit or to keep as a pet in the setting.
- We carry out a risk assessment accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal and ensure this is cleaned regularly and 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.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance where appropriate.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up-to-date and recorded.
- 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.
- Animals brought in by visitors to show the children are the responsibility of their owner.
- The owner carries out an information sheet as part of the risk assessment process, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm, a risk assessment is carried out – this may take account of safety factors listed in a 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.

This policy was amended at a meeting of the Pre-school held on 18th May 2015 and signed by Mrs Karin Williams-Cuss.

Signed on behalf of the Pre-school.....

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