



Pet Policy

Rationale

I believe that children can learn a lot from having contact with animals.

Pets are important in children's lives as they provide enjoyment and help children develop responsibilities transferable to adulthood.

Having a relationship with a pet can help develop such skills as:

- Nurturing skills
- Responsibility
- Empathy
- A caring attitude
- Communication

However, certain procedures must be followed to ensure the safety of the children.

This policy outlines the care and control of pets to minimise the risks associated from contact with domestic pet's resident at the premises to the childminder, children or any person attending the setting. This policy also links to the setting's Health and Safety Policy

This policy is also intended to minimise the risk of mistreatment of the domestic pets residing at the premises when in contact with those attending the setting.

Procedure

I will comply with requirements with respect to the management of animals required under the Health and Safety Act 1974.

Contact and the Prevention of Mistreatment of Pets

- I will supervise the children when handling a pet at the setting and where petting animals' forms part of an off-site activity.
- I will check the pet for injury or illness prior to any child contact

- I will teach the children attending the setting how to handle and treat our pets, encouraging them to touch animals in an appropriate manner.
- I will also teach the children that not all animals are child-friendly or like being “petted”, and that they should always check with the animal’s owner before attempting to stroke or handle them.
- Children will not be forced to touch the pets if they are uncomfortable doing so
- If your child has an allergy to any animal, please notify me and procedures can be put in place so that your child has no contact with such animal
- If your child has a fear of any animal, again, please let me know so we can be sensitive to this if we are near the animal.
- I will explain to a child when they have not treated an animal in an acceptable way. I will encourage them to treat animals with respect.
- A pet will be removed from an area of the setting if it is at risk from mistreatment by a child.

Hygiene

- I will encourage all children to wash their hands with antibacterial soap after any contact with animals and understand the reasoning behind this.
- A high standard of hygiene must be followed, with careful consideration given to the placing of the pet’s feeding and drinking bowls, so that they are kept out of reach of the children.
- Sink and surface areas should be cleaned with a suitable antibacterial cleaner when cleaning pet food and water containers
- Uneaten pet food, pet waste and soiled bedding must be disposed of immediately and placed in the correct bin outside of the premises
- I will check the garden every morning, before the children are permitted outside to play, to ensure that the animals have not soiled the outside areas where the children will have access. In the event soiling has occurred, I will clean up the affected area and dispose of the waste material straight away in the correct bin in the pet’s area of the garden, where children are not permitted into.

Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of the childminder to provide the care to ensure the resident pet’s health, safety and well-being.
- It is the responsibility of the childminders to ensure that the pet is appropriately insured

Date policy was written	June 2019
Policy review date	June 2020
Action/Amendments to be taken following review	