



# Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

## 8.6 Animals in the Pre-school

### **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement : Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

North Bushey Pre-school must keep premises and equipment clean, and be aware of, and comply with, requirements of health and safety legislation (including hygiene requirements)

### **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 pre-school or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

### **Procedures**

*As the setting may have to close at short notice at any time during the crisis, alternative arrangements are in place for any pets and animals that currently inhabit the setting. New animals or pets will not be taken on during the COVID-19 outbreak.*

### ***Animals in the pre-school 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 pre-school. as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have 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.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- 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 and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, are up-to-date and recorded.

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- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- We 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 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.

### ***Visits to farms***

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- We contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash and dry their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

### **Legal framework**

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

### **Further guidance**

- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

***North Bushey Pre-School – Animals in the pre-school policy***

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| This Policy was adopted at a meeting of North Bushey Preschool held on | November 2020                              |
| Date to be reviewed  | MAY 2021 OR SOONER IF CHANGES ARE REQUIRED |
| Provider   | PRE-SCHOOL OWNER                           |