

# Animals in the Setting

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

**Providers 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 setting or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

## EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child – 1.4 Health and well-being

Positive Relationships – 2.3 Supporting learning,

Enabling Environments – 3.3 The learning environment

Learning and Development - 4.1 Play and exploration. 4.2 Active learning, 4.3 Creativity and critical thinking 4.4 Personal, social and emotional development

## Procedures

### *Animals in the setting as pets*

- We provide suitable housing for our pets and ensure they are cleaned out regularly and our kept safely
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times
- We make arrangements for weekends and holiday care for the pets
- We take account of the views of parents and children when inviting animals or creatures into the setting.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the pets and are supervised.

### *Animals visiting the setting*

- We carry out a risk assessment with the owner accounting for any handling, hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- 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.

- When animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the owner.

#### *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.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

### **Legal framework**

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999  
[www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm)

### **Further guidance**

- *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003)  
[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf)

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