



Animals in the setting

Children learn about the natural world, its animals, and other living creatures. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or during visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Animals in the setting 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 setting and a risk assessment will be carried out by management.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safe.
- Children are involved in the care routines of animals when possible.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times and use this to develop children's understanding of the benefits of effective nutrition for animals and themselves.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance where necessary. All vaccinations and other health measures are put into place.
- Children are modelled the correct handling and care of the animal and are supervised at all times.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of the owner.
- All children in the setting will be offered time with the animals. If any parent wishes for their child not to have contact, they must let the manager know.

Policy Reviewed September 2025

Signed by: Nursery Manager