



ANIMAL AND PET POLICY

Aim

Our service aims to provide a safe and hygienic environment that minimises the risk of a child being harmed by an animal. We also aim to educate children in the proper care of animals. Children are educated in the roles animals play as part of our sustainability practice.

Implementation:

- Children must be closely supervised when accessing any animal or pet at the service.
- Any animal or pet kept at the Service will be regularly fed, cleaned, vaccinated, have flea powder applied to them and be regularly checked for fleas and wormed.
- Veterinary advice will be sought when any animal seems to be unwell.
- Animals will not be kept at the Service if doing so puts their health at risk.
- Any animal in a “cage” or “tank” will have its cage/tank cleaned regularly.
- All animal droppings need to be removed and the area cleaned appropriately.
- Animal or pets will never be taken into the food preparation area nor will they be allowed near the eating or sleeping area. (for example Chickens will be put into the pen when children are eating)
- Anyone who has handled the animal or pet will immediately wash their hands after they have finished handling the animal or pet.
- Children’s animal or pets will only be allowed in the Service when permission has been granted by the Director/ Responsible Person, and an appropriate risk assessment has been completed. If an animal is brought to the Service when families are collecting children it must be held at all times by the parent, at the very least on a lead held at all times by the parent.
- It will be included in the program how to properly care for animals and how to treat them appropriately.
- Children are educated in the roles animals play as part of our sustainability practice.
- Where children and educators are accessing an animal’s cage such as going into a chicken coop, their shoes must be cleaned as they leave with detergent and water so that floors are not contaminated, therefore pairs of Rubber Boots will be provided which can be worn to enter the coop.

This policy links to the following NQS:

National Quality Standards 2.1.2, 2.2.1.

See Appendix 1-National Law (168) and National Regulations