

01 Health and safety procedures

**01.18 Animals and pets**

* Views of parents/carers and children are considered when selecting a pet for the setting.
* Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
* A risk assessment is conducted and considers any hygiene and safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
* Suitable housing for the animal is provided and is regularly cleaned and maintained.
* The correct food is offered at the right times, and staff are knowledgeable of the pet’s welfare and dietary needs.
* Arrangements are made for weekend and holiday care for the animal/creature.
* There is appropriate pet health care insurance or other contingencies agreed and put in place to pay for veterinary care and the animal is registered with a local vet.
* All vaccinations and health measures such as de-worming are up to date.
* Children are taught correct handling of the pet and are always supervised.
* Children wash hands after handling a pet and do not have contact with pet faeces, or soiled bedding.
* Members of staff wear single use vinyl/latex free gloves when cleaning/handling soiled bedding.
* Snakes and some other reptiles are not suitable pets for the setting due to infection risks.
* The manager will check with the owners/directors/trustees before introducing a new pet into the setting.

**Animals brought in by visitors**

* The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.
* The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
* No dogs are to be brought on site at any time.
* If staff are concerned that a family owns a dog which is on the ‘banned dog’ list, it is treated as a safeguarding concern and it is reported to the relevant authority and safeguarding procedures are followed.

**Further guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/banned-dogs>