



## **Little Acorns Pre-School**

'From little acorns mighty oaks grow'

### **Animals in the setting**

#### **Policy statement**

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

#### **Procedures**

##### **Animals in the setting as pets**

- The Pre-School is not going to have a live in Pet in the setting.

On occasion we may temporarily have a pet in the setting and:

- We will take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have to any animals or creatures.
- We will carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by any animal or creature.
- We will provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We will ensure 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 will make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We will teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.

- We will ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- We will 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, we carry out a risk assessment - 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.
- We follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure 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.

Policy: Animals in the Setting

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Next Review: September 2023

Completed by: Jonathan Elms (Headteacher)

Reviewed by: EYFS Governors Working Party.