

Animal Health and Safety Policy

At **Brentwood Day Nursery** we recognise the value animals and pets can bring to the emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for animals and pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

Nursery pets and visiting animal company

Our safety procedures are:

- We seek parent permission on each child's registration form for children to be involved in caring for or being present when animals are at the nursery.
- Handling of animals is included in our risk assessment, including considerations for children with any allergies and this is then included in our events and parents checklist
- All pets are homed or kept in an appropriate and secure area of the setting when present at the nursery
- All visiting animals are always supervised when present. Children are seated at a reasonable distance while they are being shown to the group
- Only children who are keen are offered a chance to feel/hold animals that are safe
- Staff have responsibility for cleaning out nursery pets (where applicable). Protective equipment is used, such as gloves and aprons
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while pets are being handled. Staff explain the importance of this to the children

Pets from home

- If a child brings a pet from home to visit the nursery as a planned activity, parents of all children who will be in contact or in the same area as the pet are informed prior to this taking place. Parents are asked to let us know if they do not want their child/ren to handle/be in the area as the animal to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia. We complete a full, documented risk assessment prior to the pet visiting and analyse any risks before this type of activity is authorised
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

Visits to farms

- A site visit is made by a senior member of staff before an outing to a farm can be arranged. We check that the farm is well-managed, that the grounds and public areas are as clean as possible and that suitable first aid arrangements are in place. Animals should be prohibited from any outdoor picnic areas

- We check that the farm has suitable hand washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryers. Any portable water taps should be appropriately designed in a suitable area
- We ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children, taking into account the needs of the children
- We explain to the children that they will not be allowed to eat or drink anything, or place their hands in their mouths, while touring the farm because of the risk of infection and explain why.
- We ensure suitable precautions are in place where appropriate, e.g. in restricted areas such as near slurry pits or where animals are isolated.

During the visit

- If children are in contact with, or feeding animals, we will warn them not to place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths afterwards, and explain why
- We will encourage children to leave comforters (e.g. soft toys and blankets) and dummies either at nursery, in the transport used or in a bag carried by a member of staff to ensure cross-contamination is limited
- After contact with animals and particularly before eating and drinking, we will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash and dry their hands thoroughly. If young children are in the group, hand washing will be supervised. We will always explain why the children need to do this
- Meals, breaks or snacks will be taken well away from the areas where animals are kept and children will be warned not to eat anything which has fallen on the ground. Any crops produced on the farm will be thoroughly washed in potable water before consumption
- We will ensure children do not consume unpasteurised produce, e.g. milk or cheese
- Manure or slurry presents a particular risk of infection and children will be warned against touching it. If they do touch it, we will ensure that they thoroughly wash and dry their hands immediately
- We will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash their hands thoroughly before departure
- We will ensure footwear and clothing is as free as possible from faecal materials.

Signed on behalf of the nursery
<i>RL Austin</i>