



01 Health and safety procedures

01.16 Animals and pets

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.

Typical animals or creatures we have in the nursery are hatching butterflies and frog's spawn. We may also have our staff's pets visit the setting for a limited period or the mobile farm.

- ❖ Views of parents 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 deworming are up to date and recorded.
- ❖ Children are taught correct handling of the pet and are always supervised.
- ❖ Children wash their hands after handling the pet and do not have contact with animal 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 on the Government's Banned Dogs list are to be brought on site at any time. All other dogs brought on site by parents during arrivals and departure times must be on a lead and under control. The manager reserves the right to request that a dog is not brought on site, if the animal appears to be out of control, or likely to pose a risk.

Further guidance

[Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control](#) (Alliance 2009)

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

This policy was adopted by	Abinger Common Nursery
On	March 2024
Date to be reviewed	March 2025
Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name of signatory	Mrs Emma Powell
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Nursery Chair Person