



5G. Animal Health and Safety

England: EYFS
3.63, 3.64

Pets can help meet the emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

Nursery Pets

At Rope Green Farm Day Nursery we have Guinea Pigs as pets and also we help to care for a variety of animals on the Farm.

- A full documented risk assessment is completed, including considerations for children with any allergies
- All pets are homed appropriately and securely
- Only staff have responsibility for cleaning out the animals (where applicable). Protective equipment such as gloves and aprons are used
- We ensure all pets are child-friendly
- 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. 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.

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 must be informed. Written permission must be obtained from parents to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia. A full, documented risk assessment will be completed prior to the pet visiting and risks analysed before this type of activity is authorised.
- Pets will not be 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
- When arranging an outing to a farm, staff will all be aware of the farm outing checklist (see below).



Checklist for visits onto the Nursery Farm

- Before a visit to the farm, a risk assessment is carried out – this takes account of safety factors listed on the farmer's own risk assessment
- The outings procedure is followed
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit the farm is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
08/04/2014	S Williams	08/04/2015
08/04/2015	S Williams	08/12/2015
04/10/2015	A Davenport	04/10/2016
14/10/2016	A Davenport	14/10/2017
23/10/2017	A Davenport	23/10/2018
08/10/2018	A Davenport	08/10/2019

