



## **Policy 1.18**

### **01 Health and safety procedures**

#### **01.18 Animals and pets**

- There will be no new pets introduced to the setting during any breakout of Covid-19 . Arrangements must be made immediately for any current pets kept within the setting to be temporarily re-homed in case the setting has to close. In the interim the pets may stay at the setting. 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 de-worming are up to date.
- 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 Chair of Trustees before introducing a new pet into the setting.

#### **Animals bought 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.

## Further guidance

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

**This policy was adopted by:** Walton Pre School      *(name of provider)*

**On:**      *(date)*

**Date to be reviewed:**      *(date)*

**Signed on behalf of the provider:**

**Name of signatory:** Anne Myatt

**Role of signatory: (e.g. chair, director or owner)** Chair