

# Animals in the Setting

## General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

## Promoting health and hygiene

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

## EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.4 Health and well-being	2.3 Supporting learning	3.3 The learning environment	4.1 Play and exploration 4.4 Knowledge and understanding of the world

## Procedures

### *Animals visiting the setting*

- We take account of the views of parents and children when inviting animals or creatures into the setting.
- We carry out a risk assessment with the owner accounting for any handling, hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- When animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the owner.

### *Visits to farms*

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

## **Legal framework**

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999  
[www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm)

## **Further guidance**

- *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003)  
[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf)