

Favours Day Nursery Ltd Policy and Procedure

Animal Health and Safety

At Favours 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.

We recognise that preparation is key and research our choice of animals, including gender, breed, numbers living together and suitability for our environment, taking relevant advice from [Blue Cross](#).

Nursery pets

Our safety procedures are:

- Parents are made aware of any pets we have at nursery when they are shown round the setting
- A full documented risk assessment is completed, including considerations for children with any allergies
- All pets are homed in an appropriate and secure area of the setting, with areas that are quiet and space away from the children, when needed
- Protective equipment such as gloves and aprons are used for cleaning animals out
- We ensure all pets have had all of their relevant vaccinations, are registered with the vet and 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. Staff explain the importance of this to the children
- Children are encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to limit cross-contamination.

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. They can then notify us of any allergies or phobias. 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 limit cross-contamination.

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A. Cooke

Written with guidance from the National Day Nurseries Association