



Harvard Park Policies and Procedures:

Animals in the setting

42. Animals in the setting

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 some 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.

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

- We take account of the views of parents/carers and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have any animals or creatures.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene, or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- Our staff are knowledgeable of the pets welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- We plan for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, are up to date and recorded.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animals or creature and always supervise them.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animals or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- We wear disposable gloves when leaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.

Animals brought in by visitors

- The owner of the animal or creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- No dogs on the Government Banned Dogs list are to be brought on site at any time. All other dogs brought onsite by parents/carers during arrival and departure times must be on a lead and under control. The setting manager reserves the right to request that a dog is not brought on site, if the animal is out of control or likely to pose risk.

- If staff are concerned that a family owns a dog which is on the 'banned dog' list, it is treated as a safeguarding concern and it is reported to the relevant authority and safeguarding procedures are followed.

This Policies and Procedures pack was adjusted by Harvard Park.

Date meeting was held on 30/04/2026

Signed on behalf of the Directors and Proprietors

Nicki Saunders and Tracey Milstead