**Tring Stepping Stones Preschool**

**Animals in the setting**

**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 during visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls. We are also mindful that some children find contact with animals, particularly dogs, difficult or upsetting and therefore have policies in place to adress this on a day to day basis.

**Procedures**

*Animals at drop off and pick up time*

* At pick up and drop off times, we would ask parents to keep their dogs on a lead.
* Whilst parents/carers are waiting to drop off or collect children, all dogs must be kept on a lead and kept away from both the yellow bag rack and from the top of the ramp.
* With the exception of Assistance Dogs, no dogs, either walking or carried, should be brought down the ramp, into the outdoor play area or into the preschool building whilst preschool is on site.

*Animals in the setting; Pre-arranged Visits*

* We take into account the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to be brought in and shown to the children.
* We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
* Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature.
* 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.

*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.
* We contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
* Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
* We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

**Further guidance**

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

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| This policy was adopted at a meeting of | Tring Stepping Stones pre-school |  |
| Held on |  |  |
| Date to be reviewed | **March 2025** |  |
| Signed on behalf of the management committee |  | |
| Name of signatory |  | |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) |  | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Staff name | Staff signature | Date read |
| Nicola Poulton |  |  |
| Lucy Brittain |  |  |
| Nicola Reynolds |  |  |
| Kim Smith |  |  |
| Jo Davis |  |  |

June 2020 – no changes

March 2022 - **Further guidance changed-**

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

September 2023 – Removed line about dogs being tied to the lampost as parents now drop off and collect children individually from the top of the ramp. Dogs to be kept on leads and away from the children.

March 2024 – Added line “We are also mindful that some children find contact with animals, particularly dogs, difficult or upsetting and therefore have policies in place to adress this on a day to day basis”. Added section Animals at drop off/pick up.