



Animals, Creatures and Pets Within the Setting

- Acorn Playgroup and Pre-school do not have a setting 'pet'.
- Animals and creatures are only present in the setting for topic related activities such as chick egg incubating and hatching, caterpillar to butterfly life cycle and annual ZooLab visit, where small animals/creatures are brought in for a short period of time, normally an hour, under the supervision of a professional handler.
- Staff are aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any of the above animals/creatures.
- A risk assessment is conducted and considers any hygiene and safety risks posed by the animal or creatures.
- Suitable housing for the animal is provided and is regularly cleaned and maintained and kept out of unsupervised reach of the children.
- 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.
- Children are taught correct handling of the pet and are always supervised.
- Children wash their hands before and after handling any animal/creatures 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.

Animals bought in by visitors

- The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it whilst in the setting.
- The setting manager carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

This policy was adopted by Acorn Playgroup and Pre-school on 01 September 2023