

## **Pet Policy**

I believe that children can learn a lot from having contact with animals. While in my care children will have opportunities to interact with *Dogs*.

Please let me know if your child has any allergies or phobias.

### **Procedure**

- Children will be encouraged to treat all animals with respect, learning how to handle them correctly
- Children must wash their hands after any contact with animals and understand the reasoning behind this
- Children will not be left unsupervised with animals
- Children must be taught that not all animals are child friendly and that they should always check with the animal's owner before attempting to stroke or handle them
- Food and medication for the pets will be stored safely away from the children's reach
- Feeding bowls will be cleared away after animals are fed, usually before children arrive
- A high standard of hygiene will be followed, with careful thought given to the placing of the feeding and drink bowls
- The garden is checked every morning, before the children are permitted outside to play, to ensure that no animal has fouled it
- Litter trays are kept out of reach of children and cleaned regularly
- All pets in my house have the correct and up to date vaccinations and are regularly treated for worms, ticks and fleas
- Pets are not allowed on kitchen surfaces
- Particular care will be given when caring for reptiles, children under 5 will not have contact with reptiles as they pose a high risk of salmonella transmission

If any incident occurs, such as a child receiving an animal bite or scratch, parents will be informed and medical assistance sought if necessary.

Date policy was written:

Date reviewed: