

Safety Surrounding Animals

Policy statement

At Rudgwick Pre-school 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 curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting, during visits or on Forest School Outings. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals visiting the setting

- ◆ If you bring a dog to pre-school when dropping off or collecting your child, we ask you tie it up securely away from the entrance area or access gates to avoid children being frightened.

Animals brought in by visitors

- ◆ The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.
- ◆ The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- ◆ Children will be supervised when washing their hands following the visit.
- ◆ Staff remain close at hand and vigilant at all times.
- ◆ No dogs on the Government's Banned Dogs list are to be brought on site at any time. All other dogs brought on site by parents during arrivals and departure times must be on a lead and under control. The manager reserves the right to request that a dog is not brought on site, if the animal appears to be out of control, or likely to pose a risk.

Visits to farms

- ◆ Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out – this will take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- ◆ Our outings procedure is followed.
- ◆ Children wash their hands after contact with animals.

- ◆ Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.
- ◆ 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/I] will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- ◆ Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly 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.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Held on

Date to be reviewed

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Name of signatory

Role of signatory

Rudgwick Pre-school

22nd September 2026

22nd September 2028

Laura Thornber

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Chairperson

Legal framework

- ☐ The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 Further guidance
- ☐ Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)