



Pets and Animals Policy

I believe that children can learn a lot from having contact with animals, however certain procedures will be followed to ensure the safety of the children.

Pet Procedure

- Children will be encouraged to treat animals with respect, learn how to behave around them and how to handle them carefully.
- Children will wash their hands after any contact with animals and understand the reasoning behind this.
- Food for pets will be stored safely away from the children's reach.
- A high standard of hygiene will be in place, with careful thought given to the placing of the feeding and drink bowls of dogs and cats.
- My garden will be checked every morning, before the children are permitted outside to play, to ensure that no animal has fouled it.
- If your child has an allergy to any pet or other animal, please notify me and we can discuss whether it will be possible for them to safely attend the setting without coming into contact with the animal or its hair/fur, etc.

Other Animals

- Children will be taught that not all animals are friendly and that they should always check with the animal's owner before attempting to stroke or handle them. They will also be taught not to touch dogs if they approach them when out and about, even if they appear to be friendly, without first checking with their owner.
- If your child has a fear of any animal, please let me know so we can be sensitive to this if we are near any of these animals and try to avoid them if that is possible.
- Children will be taught to respect all living creatures, no matter how big or small. We will observe and care for nature in outdoor spaces, being careful not to hurt any wildlife or disturb their habitats.

Please ensure you have read and understand the Pets and Animals policy and procedure.

All policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and updated when necessary.

This policy and procedure has been development in line with the EYFS welfare requirements and Ofsted guidance, and outlines the provider's responsibility to take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This policy and procedure has been written by **Miss Caitlin Smith**, the Ofsted-registered childminder responsible for the care of children at **The Flower Cottage**, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7TQ.