01 Health and safety procedures

01.16 Animals and pets

At Maidenbower Preschool Playgroup

- Views of parents/carers and children are considered when selecting a pet for the setting.
- Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
- A risk assessment is conducted and considers any hygiene and safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Suitable housing for the animal is provided and is regularly cleaned and maintained.
- 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.
- There are appropriate pet health care insurance or other contingencies agreed and put in place to pay for veterinary care, and the animal is registered with a local vet.
- All vaccinations and health measures such as de-worming are up to date.
- Children are taught correct handling of the pet and are always supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling a pet and do not have contact with pet faeces, or soiled bedding.
- Members of staff wear single use vinyl/latex free gloves when cleaning/handling soiled bedding.
- Snakes and some other reptiles are not suitable pets for the setting due to infection risks.
- The manager will check with the owners/directors/trustees before introducing a new pet into the setting.
- No dogs on the Government's banned dog breeds list are to be kept or otherwise present at the same premises as childcare at any time. This requirement **still** applies if the dog's owner has a certificate of exemption issued under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

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.
- No dogs on the Government's Banned Breed Dogs list are to be brought on to or otherwise present at the site by visitors including parents/carers at any time even if the owner has a certificate of exemption under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. All other dogs brought on site by parents/carers during arrival and departure times must be on the lead and under control. The manager reserves the right to request that a dog is not brought on site, if the animal is out of control, or likely to pose a risk.

- If staff are concerned that a family owns a dog which is on the ‘banned breed dog’ list, it is treated as a safeguarding concern and it is reported to the relevant authority and safeguarding procedures are followed.

Further guidance

https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/banned-dogs