**Animal Health and Safety Policy**

| EYFS: 3.51, 3.71, 3.76, |
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At Ashridge day nursery we recognise the value animals/pets can bring to the emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for animals/pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

**Nursery pets**

At nursery, we currently do not have any pets.

Upon acquisition of a nursery pet, our safety procedures would be:

* A full documented risk assessment is completed, including considerations for children with any allergies
* All pets are homed in an appropriate and secure area of the setting, with areas that are quiet and space away from the children, when needed
* Only staff have responsibility for cleaning out the animals. Protective equipment, such as gloves and aprons, is used
* Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops, or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while pets are being handled. Staff explain the importance of this to the children and the reason why.
* Children are encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

**Pets from home**

* If a child/staff member brings a pet from home to visit the nursery as a planned activity, parents/carers of all children who will be in contact or in the same area as the pet are informed. We obtain written permission from parents/carers to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia. We complete a full, documented risk assessment prior to the pet visiting and analyse any risks before this type of activity is authorised.
* Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children and the reason why.
* Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** |
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| *March 2024* | *Lisa Hubbard* |