

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Providers must keep premises and equipment clean, and be aware of, and comply with, requirements of health and safety legislation (including hygiene requirements).

Hollytree Community Pre-school – Policies and Procedures

8.6 Animals in the setting

Policy statement

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. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. At Hollytree pre-school we aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to visit the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have with any animals or creatures.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- We check with the owner to make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, are up-to-date before the animal is brought into the setting.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- The animals or creatures brought in by visitors to show the children, are the responsibility of their owner.
- 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/carers during arrival 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 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 dog' list, it is treated as a safeguarding concern and it is reported to the relevant authority and safeguarding procedures are followed.

Visits to farms/zoos

- Before a visit to a farm or zoo, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm or zoo's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.

- 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 will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- We follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Further guidance

- Health and Safety Regulation....A Short Guide (HSE 2003)
- <https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/banned-dogs>

This policy was adopted by

Hollytree Community Pre-school

Last review

August 2025

Date of next review

August 2026

Signed on behalf of the provider

J Goldspink

Name of signatory

Jo Goldspink

Role of signatory

Joint Manager