

## Animal and Pet Policy

### **Aim:**

Children learn about the natural world, 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 when in the nursery or when on an outing or visit. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Every reasonable, precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards likely to cause harm/ injury.

### **Procedures:**

- Risk assessments are created on pets in the nursery.
- Children must be closely supervised when accessing any animal or pet at the nursery and are taught the correct handling of the animal through role modelling.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal and ensure it is cleaned out regularly and is kept safe.
- We ensure the pet eats the correct foods and is offered at the right times.
- Animals or pets are NOT allowed to be left out and must be always held/ supervised by a practitioner – then placed back in their home.
- Animals/ pets will NEVER be taken in the food preparation areas.
- Anyone who handles an animal/ pet will wash and anti-bac their hands immediately after.
- Children do not touch animal waste or clean the pets out – this is a practitioner's role.
- No other animals/ pets other than Springboard Nurseries are allowed on the premises.
- Guide dogs are allowed on the premises. No children will be near the guide dogs.

**\*Please note- Animals may vary from nursery to nursery**

**This policy was implemented by Springboard Management Team: please note all policies and procedures will be reviewed on a yearly basis, unless there is a need to implement changes prior. Please note any updates and changes will be forwarded by email.**

**Date:** 01.09.2023