

**XXX SCHOOL  
POLICY DOCUMENT**

**ANIMALS**

**Responsibilities:**

- a) The head teacher will ensure the schools commitment in complying with the legislative requirements laid down within the following regulations:
- The Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
  - The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999
  - The Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992
- b) Children will be taught about the needs and characteristics of each animal & receive instruction of potential hazards associated with keeping and caring for animals.
- c) Any animals allowed in school will be among the approved kinds as mentioned in:
- The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
  - The advisory codes of practice contained within the Science Guidance from CLEAPSS School Science Service
  - The Association for Science Education ASE "Be Safe" 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2001
  - Reference will be made to CLEAPSS guides L52, L71, L124, L181, L197, L201, L206, L213 & 'Hazcards' where appropriate
- d) The school will not allow any animals that fall into the following categories:
- That can transmit diseases to humans.
  - That it is illegal to take from the wild
  - That are venomous
  - Exotic animals unsuitable for the school environment e.g. – exotic mammals, many lizards, birds, terrapins, bullfrog tadpoles
  - Animals that may infest - May inhabit or overrun in dangerously large numbers.
  - That can cause allergic reaction.
- e) Hygiene - Any organised & supervised friendly contact with animals (petting) will be followed by suitable and supervised washing.
- f) Any animal scratches and bites will be treated by a first-aider, as per school policy & seek medical advice if deemed necessary.
- g) Obtain animals, particularly small mammals from reputable suppliers.
- h) The school will always ensure proper planning for the correct care and maintenance, including the potential difficulties of weekend and holiday times.
- i) Take measure to prevent dogs accessing school premises where possible & prohibit the access and exercising of dogs on school grounds.

**Procedure:**

- Animals will not be allowed to wander unrestricted around classrooms.
- Ensure that cats and dogs brought into school for a short visit are well behaved and free from stress, disease and parasites.
- Surfaces such as tables on which animals have been studied should be cleaned immediately afterwards with hot water and detergent.
- Supervise children to ensure they do not suck their thumbs, or eat and drink, etc, until hands have been washed.
- Animal housings to be kept clean and disinfect cages at regular intervals.
- Removal of any uneaten surplus fresh food before it begins to decompose.
- Prevention of any contact between maintained animals or their foodstuffs and wild animals.
- Children are discouraged from bringing mammals and birds found in the wild, dead or alive (often injured), into school.

SAMPLE