43. 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 at ASK or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

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.
- We ensure children are taught the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and we 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.
- 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.

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

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm'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 members of staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant, to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

This policy was adopted by:	ASK Kindergarten & Clubs
On:	May 12, 2026
Date to be reviewed:	May 12, 2027
Signatory:	Mark Stewart
Role of Signatory:	Owner & Ofsted Registered Provider