
	Name of School	Corbets Tey School
	Policy Adopted Date	06/02/2019
	Next Review Date	06/02/2020
	Reviewed by	Governors Name: Philip Brimson Governors Signature: 

Animals in School Policy

Corbets Tey School recognises that the presence of animals at school can provide a valuable learning experience, but animals cannot be allowed to endanger pupil and staff safety or disrupt learning.

Equality Impact Assessment

The school aims to design and implement services, policies and procedures that meet the diverse needs of our provision, population and workforce, ensuring that none are placed at an unreasonable or unfair disadvantage over others. We are confident that this policy does not place anyone at an unreasonable or unfair disadvantage, and is compliant with relevant equalities legislation.

Aims

The aims of keeping animals in the learning environment are to,

- ❖ Motivate pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment of animals.
- ❖ Encourage a respect and reverence for life in pupils and thereby improve their relationships with other pupils, parents and teachers.
- ❖ Foster a sense of responsibility in children.
- ❖ Teach children to nurture and respect life.
- ❖ Lead to the development of hobbies / careers in animal care.
- ❖ Improve academic achievement.

Objectives

At Corbets Tey we aim to promote good practice in animal care. Pupils are taught correct procedures in handling and caring for animals; they are encouraged to take a shared responsibility for the care of the animals, under direct supervision. Pupils will be taught how to interact gently with our school pets whilst under adult supervision.

At Corbets Tey School the aims will be met by ensuring:-

- ❖ A written risk assessment for each animal is in place including veterinary contact details and advice on recognising ill health in that species.
- ❖ We obtain well socialised young animals from a reputable source.
- ❖ The owner of the pet will keep the animals at home for a two week quarantine period prior to introduction to the school for further observation of nature, behaviour and health.
- ❖ We ensure that each animal enjoys an optimum environment, in social groups. If appropriate. We are aware that keeping opposite sex animals can lead to breeding and result in welfare problems. Where possible animals will be kept in same sex groups or pairs.
- ❖ The environment and well being of the animals is monitored to ensure that no animal is distressed by classroom or school environment characteristics (e.g. noise, pupil behaviours).
- ❖ Routine preventive health measures are sought and practised as advised by the vet – vaccination, flea prevention and worm control where appropriate. Veterinary care advice attached to each animals risk assessment.
- ❖ Pets and their living areas are kept clean and safe at all times.
- ❖ A high quality, appropriate diet is provided.
- ❖ Children always wash hands after handling (See Health & Safety).
- ❖ Any sick animals are promptly isolated and examined by a vet.
- ❖ Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any involvement or handling of the animals if they wish.
- ❖ Careful arrangements for holiday and weekend care are made, either with a member of staff or a vetted pupil's family.
- ❖ The keeping of animals is not impacting on the class budget and other subject areas. The owner will take financial responsibility although classes may like to run fundraising events to support their animals.

Procedures

Visiting animals

During school hours, no animal will be brought to school without prior authorisation. Pupils must obtain permission from their teacher; staff will obtain authorisation from the Headteacher, or the Deputy Head. If the Head and the Deputy are unavailable advice will be sort from the Senior Management Team. Arrangements for animal visits should be made at least 48 hours in advance and pupil allergies checked prior to the visit. Animals brought to school at pick up and drop off times will be leashed.

Proof (from a veterinarian) of compliance with immunisations for any disease that can be transmitted to humans shall be filed with the office in advance. All mammals will be properly vaccinated. Any animal brought to school must remain under control of the responsible adult at all times. The animal will be contained on a leash or in suitable carrier

No wild animals or protected animals will be purposely brought to the building or on school grounds by anyone other than an authorised or licensed animal handler. There will be no physical contact between the animal and students unless it is an integral part of the objectives for the program with prior approval received from the Headteacher or Deputy.

Animals considered as resident class pets:

Permission must be given by the Headteacher prior to establishing resident animals in the classroom. Class Teachers own the pets and take primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animal in their classroom.

Considerations to make in advance of acquiring a class pet:

Before acquiring a classroom pet, the Class Teacher will investigate whether any student is:

- Allergic or sensitive to any particular species or their food or bedding materials.
- Immune compromised, and therefore more susceptible to zoological illnesses.
- The Class Teacher will provide parents and guardians with information about the classroom pet, the purpose of acquiring the animal (how its care will fit into the curriculum), and a plan for how any injuries (bites, scratches) will be managed should they arise.

Type of pet:

- Only domestic animals may be kept as pets, wild animals may not be kept as pets (this includes locally caught frogs, snakes, etc.).
- Animals must be diurnal (awake during the day).

Appropriate species are:

- Guinea Pigs, Gerbils, Domestic Rats, Domestic Mice, Hamsters and Fish.

Responsibilities:

The Class Teacher is considered the animal's guardian/caregiver, and is responsible for ensuring that all of the animal's physical and psychological needs are met.

The animal's guardian is responsible for:

- Researching the animal's species and consulting reliable sources (veterinarian, humane educator) regarding appropriate diet, housing, exercise, and socialization.
- Ensuring that the animal is fed appropriately, handled properly, and that its habitat is cleaned regularly.
- Seeking regular and emergency veterinary care for the animal at their own cost.
- Making arrangements for any resident animal's care and safety continuing through weekends and holidays.
- Be prepared to care for the animal at home in the event that a future pupil is allergic and the animal is unable to live in the classroom.
- Be prepared to take the animals home if they show any unsuitability with children (e.g. biting or aggression of any type).
- Take the animals home as soon as they become unwell at any time.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils will have opportunities to access the animals under the supervision of an adult. A pupil may not have contact with an animal if they pose a threat to the animal. It will be the Class Teacher's responsibility to encourage the pupil to have the right approach to animals.

Curriculum Links

The care of class pets has many cross curricular links. The main link is to PSHMME, as it is recognised that the pupils will learn to care and respect animals and learn to become responsible. It is also important to consider that the life span of animals is much shorter than that of a typical human, and class pets can be an important tool to aiding pupils understanding of life and death. Within science pupils will learn about life cycles, and class pets will allow pupils to have a multi sensory approach to learning.

Assessment

Pupil's ability to take responsibility for class pets will be assessed in line with the school's assessment for PSHE.

Health and Safety

- Every animal that is on school premises except for animals brought to school at pick up and drop off times will have a written risk assessment carried out on in line with the current risk assessment procedures.
- Class pet's risk assessments will be reviewed each September, with the individual needs of the class pupils taken into account.
- Animal housing will ensure that pets do not come into contact with wild rodents whilst in or out of school.
- If due to an allergy the pets cannot stay in the classroom, it is the responsibility of the Class Teacher to ensure the needs of the animals are maintained at home under their own care.
- Should any pupil or adult be bitten by an animal at school, medical advice will be sought. In addition, in the case of a child, parents will be called and an incident form completed and signed by the Headteacher.
- Classroom pets should be same sex and not permitted to breed.
- Pupils will only handle the animal under direct supervision of an adult. If pupils are given responsibilities for feeding the animal or cleaning the animal's habitat, this will be assigned as a reward, and pupils will be supervised during all interactions.
- Pupils will be taught to keep animals away from their faces and supervised to ensure this happens.
- When cleaning out cages or enclosures, pupils and adults will wear protective disposable gloves.
- Soiled litter will be disposed of in the nappy disposal bins.
- Pupils must be supervised in washing their hands with soap prior to and after handling the classroom pet or cleaning its habitat.
- Pupils will not be allowed to handle animals when food or drink is being consumed.
- Any cuts or abrasions on exposed skin will be covered prior to handling animals or involvement in their care.
- Class pets will be housed in a quiet area of the classroom away from windows, direct sunlight, heating vents, and drafts. The heat in the classroom will be kept within an acceptable range during the night time.
- The Class Teacher is responsible for monitoring the animal's behaviour and making responsible and ethical decisions regarding pupil and animal welfare.

Related policies.

PSMHE

Health and Safety