



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date written:</b>
<b>Caring for Animals Policy</b>	<b>22/2/22</b>
<b>Written by:</b>	<b>Date of Review:</b>
<b>Emma Holmes/ Louise Lloyd-Evans</b>	<b>14/9/23</b>

### **Policy Statement**

This policy is in place to ensure we understand how to look after and role-model caring for all animals, especially our Young Friend's pets.

### **Aims and Purpose**

At Young Friends, the animals we have are part of the family and a huge aspect to our ethos of looking after the planet and the life within it. It is also widely scientifically proven and reported that the nurturing of animals is hugely beneficial to children and adults. All staff are aware of the benefits of animals and as such are responsible for their care and well-being and for encouraging children to look after and learn from them.

#### **Benefits of animals to children and adults:**

Most children naturally love animals. A child who learns to care for an animal, and treat it kindly and patiently, will get invaluable training in learning to grow empathy and treat people the same way. Aside from building great memories, having pets at nursery, especially if they do not have them at home, benefits children's emotional development and physical health and a plethora of ways. Some of them are:

- Children who spend regular time with animals as pets have fewer allergies and asthma
- Children with pets spend more time outside
- Animals provide lessons about life, including reproduction, birth, illnesses, accidents, death, and bereavement
- Animals provide responsibility and foster leadership in children
- Animals teach children about patience and self-control
- Animals are excellent listeners and safe recipients of secrets and private thoughts
- Sharing the love and care of a family pet forges an additional common bond among children
- Animals teach children about the act of sharing
- Animals provide unexpected Biology lessons
- Animals give children their first experience of being caregivers
- Animals boost children's self-esteem
- Animals teach empathy and compassion
- Animals teach children all about unconditional love
- Animals can reduce loneliness

- Reading to animals, or showing them pictures and relaying stories, improve children's reading skills
- Animals are therapeutic and curb anxiety
- Animals may make children feel safe

### Applicability

Children  
Staff

### Definition of Terms

n/a

### Overview

General Procedures  
The Rabbits  
Landa and Annie, our dogs  
**Animal Care and Wellbeing**

### Procedures

#### General Procedures

- We teach children how to approach animals, so they remain calm.
- We teach children about what animals need to be healthy and happy.
- We encourage and role model respect for all animals
- We ensure children understand not to touch animals (e.g. dogs) while on trips.
- We instil an interest in learning about animals, their habitat, their food, their life cycles etc.
- We realise that there does not always need to be a purpose to children's visit to the animals. They might simply just be with them. Children might have a story in the guinea pig pen or sit with our Labrador.
- Teaching children to be calm, quiet, and purposeful when around all of our pets, and other animals

#### The Rabbits

- We regularly include all children from all groups in animal care and provision.
- We encourage the children to allow the rabbits to come to them for a stroke
- We watch and act IMMEDIATELY if a child is acting negatively towards the animals at any time
- We do not permit children who are acting negatively towards the animals be with them unattended. ONLY when children are calm and acting in a respectful and caring manner can they be with them – we always remember they are living beings and not there to test/trial positive behaviour thus endangering their well being
- We encourage children's communication skills by asking them how they feel when they are with them, using open ended conversation techniques

## Landa and Annie, the dogs

Our owner occasionally brings in her dogs Landa and Annie to see the children. They are very gentle and extremely good with little people.

We encourage the children to:

- Be calm around Landa and Annie and not use loud voices
- Stroke and pat them gently
- Not crowd around them

## Animal Care and Wellbeing

It is all staff member's responsibility to:

- Ensure that animals are always living in a clean and well stocked environment
- Ensure animals are let out when the weather is dry and not too cold and put away safely at the end of the day, or when they are leaving the garden.
- Ensure animals are always safe – with their enclosure and run secure
- Ensure animals are not left out in the rain.
- The animal section of the checklist is adhered to strictly and consistently. Any animal related points that have not been done will be considered misconduct in the workplace
- Keep a close eye on their health and to check each on every morning. To check all animals' appearance, health, and demeanour daily and report anything unusual
- Make sure water is attached to the run securely and at a good height, and fresh vegetables and hay should be offered daily (this should be cleared at the end of the day)
- Every time the animals are put in the enclosure, faeces is removed and fresh sawdust put down in its place
- Every week the hutch is cleaned out completely, putting waste in compost
- Emma should be alerted when food, hay, sawdust, and straw have 1/3 left. This should never be left till they have run out
- All enclosure doors locked and checked before leaving in the evening
- Food bowls filled and all water bottles filled and securely attached before leaving

## External Links and Organisations


n/a

## Relevant Policies and Documents

Outdoor Trip Policy  
Sustainability Policy  
Accidents and Incidents Policy  
Health and Safety Policy

## Authorisation

Signature:



Louise Lloyd-Evans  
Owner and Director

Young Friends Nature Nursery  
89 Holland Road  
Hove  
East Sussex  
BN3 1JP