

## **Warbstow Pre-school**

### **Pet and Animal Handling Policy**

At Warbstow Pre-school we only intend to keep small creatures in a tank, such as fish/snails/frogs.

In these cases members of staff will be responsible for looking after the creatures, monitoring feeding and cleaning the tank etc.

Warbstow Pre-school welcomes pets brought in from the homes of staff and parents/carers if there is no risk to the children.

The procedure for bringing in pets is:

- A letter will be sent out to parents including a permission slip for their child to have contact with the pet
- A poster will be displayed giving details of the animal.
- A risk assessment will be carried out.
- A hygiene pack set up and placed close by to deal with any little accidents.
- A strategy for supervising the children whilst looking at the pet and supervising children who do not want to/ can not look at the pet.
- Staff are to tell the manager if they have allergies or concerns about working with the pets and are not to express negative feelings about animals in front of the children.

The pets will be seen as an opportunity to increase the child's learning and understanding of the world, sensory exploration, communication skills and attention span etc.

Health and hygiene – staff will discuss the importance of hygiene with the children before the activity takes place, we will discuss the possibility of the animal doing a wee or poo and that only a grown-up will clean it up with the hygiene pack, it is important for the children to also understand that we need to remain calm and quiet whilst looking at and handling the animal so they do not become frightened. Staff will be vigilant and prevent children putting their hands to their mouths whilst also handling an animal.

Children will wash hands with antibacterial soap at the end of the handling session.

Discussions will also be held about the health of the animal, what they eat? Where they sleep? And how else they need to be cared for.

This policy was adopted by Warbstow Pre-school on: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018

To be reviewed annually by Mrs Katie Wilcox - Manager