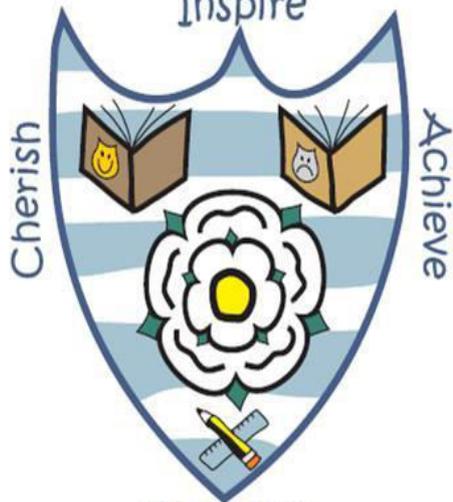


Birkwood Primary

Inspire



Together

School

# **ANIMALS IN SCHOOL POLICY**

**UPDATED MARCH 2017**

Birkwood Primary School recognises that the presence of animals in school can provide a valuable learning experience, but animals cannot be allowed to endanger children's safety or disrupt learning. Keeping an animal in school should provide a learning experience for children.

In addition, Birkwood Primary School recognises that instruction related to the care of animals teaches children a sense of responsibility and promotes the humane treatment of living creatures. It is the policy of the school to ask parents if their child does have an animal allergy. It is the policy of our school to notify parents of children in a classroom when an animal/s is being introduced.

### **Procedures**

Animals brought to school for short term/day visits:

During school hours, no animal will be brought to school without prior authorisation. Children must obtain permission from their teacher; the teacher will obtain authorisation from the Headteacher. Arrangements for animal visits should be made 24 hours in advance.

All mammals will be properly vaccinated. Rabies vaccination is required for any mammal.

Any animal brought to school must remain under the control of the responsible adult at all times. This applies to days when school is in session, prior to the start of school and for an hour after school. **Any mammal that is brought into school on a regular basis should be appropriately insured.**

Transportation to and from school will be the responsibility of the parent or other adult.

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 children unless it is an integral part of the objectives for the programme with prior approval received from the Headteacher.

### **Animals considered as resident class pets**

Permission of the Headteacher is required prior to establishing resident animals in the classroom. Classroom pets that are of an unknown origin/history are not permitted in school. Teachers assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animal in their classroom.

When the school is not in session for more than two days, the teacher must make arrangements for any animal's care and safety.

Should any child or adult be bitten by an animal at school, a health care provider and the health officer shall be immediately notified. In addition, parents will be called.

### **Humane treatment of animals**

Animals within the school will be handled, treated and housed in a humane manner. Enclosures will be appropriate to the species. Animals will be kept in an environment appropriate to the species. Habitats will be maintained and cleaned regularly by staff not children.

### **Guide Dogs visiting the school**

In addition to the above procedures, the following must also be taken into account:

- Allergic reactions cannot be discounted from handling dogs, or just from being near them. Children known to have allergic reactions to dogs must have their access restricted.
- Dogs that are ill must not be brought into schools.
- Dogs must be kept under the full control and supervision of their owner.
- Prior to the visit, pupils should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around dogs. Children are likely to become excited and it is important that they react calmly and carefully around the dog(s). They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening for the dog. Children should be told not to put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.

