

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Animal Policy

Author	Amy Giles
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#### Purpose of this document

To outline the Aspired Futures (AF) intention to offer positive experiences for children/young people (CYP) to learn about animals and how to look after them properly whilst enjoying the tactile and emotional benefits that animals may have.

#### Details of Policy

AF are keen to seek opportunities for the CYP to interact with animals within a safe and secure setting as and when appropriate.

AF must gain consent from parents/carers for their CYP to have contact with any animal and acquire any information regarding a CYP's likes and dislikes regarding animals or any allergies prior to the session. This information is found on the Index and on the Allergen Chart stored in the Kitchen.

AF must inform the Kensington Resource Centre landlord prior to an animal visiting the property.

A full risk assessment will be carried out prior to any animal being brought to the Kensington Resource Centre. The owner of the animal would always be present throughout any such visit and all contact with the animal will be with their consent and under their supervision.

If the animal shows any signs of distress throughout the visit, the animal MUST be removed from the building and away from children and young people.

During outings it is important that children and young people are taught not to approach animals unless they have been told it is safe to do so.

AF will adhere to all health, safety and hygiene procedures where activities are planned with animals and ensure that the CYP are aware of the risks animals can pose at times.

Both adults and CYP must wash their hands thoroughly with antibacterial soap and warm water before and after handling any animals or their equipment and the activity must be carried out away from any food preparation or serving areas.

At the end of a visit, AF staff are responsible for cleaning and tidying the property where an animal had been.