



### 31. ANIMALS

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<b>Document Author:</b>	<b>YMCA Childcare, CB</b>
<b>Document Approved:</b>	<b>Stuart Buchanan</b>
<b>Person(s) responsible for developing, distributing and reviewing Policy</b>	<b>Stuart Buchanan Russell Wilbourne</b>
<b>Person responsible for approving Policy</b>	<b>Stuart Buchanan</b>
<b>Method of communication of policies to staff (email / hard copy / induction training)</b>	<b>Email &amp; Hard Copy</b>
<b>Method of communication of policies to parents/guardians (full policies via email, hard copy)</b>	<b>Email &amp; Hard Copy</b>
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**This policy has been communicated to parents/guardians.**

**Relevant staff know the requirements and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to this policy. Relevant staff have received training on this policy.**

**Statement of Intent:** YMCA Childcare believes that having pets in a service is of great benefit to the children as they will experience and learn skills which will support them throughout their lives. While there are many benefits of keeping pets in the service, there are issues and concerns to think about in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the children and the animals.

**The Service will ensure that:**

- Animals will be carefully selected considering their size, care needs, temperament, health risks and appropriateness for children
- All animals will be cared for properly including feeding, exercise, interaction with them and cleaning of bedding or living area
- Staff will be assigned duties of care for the animals
- Children will always be supervised if handling the animals



- Children and staff will always wash their hands after handling the animals
- Children will not clean the animal's living area or have access to any animal waste
- Animals will not be kept near the food preparation area
- No animal with a risk of carrying parasites, bacteria or similar are allowed on the premises
- A risk assessment will be carried out for any animal introduced to the service
- Parents will be notified in writing of any animal joining the service
- If a child has an allergy to the animal, this will be accommodated for on an individual level

igned: 

**Date:** 8th May 2024

**Name:** Stuart Buchanan

**Person responsible for approving the Policy**