

Porthleven School.

Policy for animals in school

Version Control

Version 1

Agreed Jan 2015

Review Jan 2018

Studies show that encouraging children to take an interest in animals can have a positive effect on them and can be used to improve human and animal welfare. Some of the benefits have been identified as follows:

School Pets have been found to

- *Motivate pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment of animals.*
- *Encourage a respect and reverence for life in pupils and thereby improve their relationships with other pupils, parents and teachers.*
- *Foster a sense of responsibility in children*
- *Teach children to nurture and respect life.*
- *Lead to the development of hobbies / careers in animal care*
- *Improve academic achievement*

Animals in schools also have social benefits for the school community

- *Enhance the learning environment, creating a sense of security and family warmth for the pupils.*
- *Encourage the involvement of parents and the wider community in school activity*
- *Help to promote the school as an important nurturing influence in the community.*

Looking after a school animal

At Porthleven School we aim to promote good practice in animal care. Children are taught correct procedures in handling and caring for animals: they are encouraged to take a shared responsibility for the care of the animals, under direct supervision. Children will be taught how to interact gently with our school animals under adult supervision.

Visiting animals.

There will be times when the curriculum may be supported by visits into school by an animal. (such occasions as visit from a life saving dog, visits from reptiles). Risk assessments will be carried out in line with the policy for these occasions

At Porthleven School we

- *Prepare a risk assessment for each animal*
- *Risk assessments will take into account any allergies or pupil experience with animals. E.g. phobias or previous experience such as being frightened by a dog.*
- *Obtain well socialised young animals from a reputable source*

- *Ensure that each animal enjoys an optimal environment in social groups. If appropriate.*
- *Routine preventive health measures are practiced as advised by animal welfare professionals.*
- *Animals and their quarters are kept clean and safe at all times*
- *A high quality appropriate diet is provided.*
- *Children always wash hands after handling*
- *Any sick animals are promptly isolated and examined by a vet if appropriate.*
- *Careful arrangements for holiday and weekend care are made with a member of staff.*

Review

The effectiveness of the above policy and our practice will be evaluated every two years. This will be done every two years by the SLT in consultation with the whole school community. The head teacher will inform the Governing Body of any incidents related to the details of this policy

To be reviewed

Adopted by the governing Body on

Signed

Chair of governors.