

# Essex Wildlife Trust

## Nature Nursery: Animals in the Nursery Policy and Procedure

*A policy describes what we do and how we do it as an organisation. It is a set of agreed principles which set out a course of action adopted by our staff and volunteers. It will often include acceptable methods, behaviours, and an approved procedure. It is usually internal, although some organisational policies are expected to be publicly accessible.*

### Version Control

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When review is completed, please send to: [businesssupport@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:businesssupport@essexwt.org.uk)

Version	Date	Changes made by	Reason for change
2		J Burlingham	Update to new format Clarify policy in terms of animals kept, brought to site and wild animals

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Essex Wildlife Trust Nature Nursery recognises the value of having animals in the setting to allow the children to have the experience and the opportunity to nurture and care for an animal. It enables them to learn about life cycles and encourages them to understand the needs of other living creatures in a safe environment.
- 1.2. Animals offer the potential for a very positive learning experience, but animals cannot be allowed to endanger the children or vice versa. Therefore, clear safety policies and procedures are important to keep the children and animals safe and healthy.

## 2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the Nature Nursery.

## 3. Purpose of Policy

- 3.1. To ensure all relevant precautions are considered and adhered to within operation of the Nature Nursery where animals may be used as part of the curriculum.

## 4. Policy Statement

- 4.1. Children learn about the natural world, wildlife, animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

## 5. Procedure

### **Animals kept within the Nursery**

- 5.1. Nature Nursery Management would discuss any plans to keep animals within the Nursery, considering all relevant factors.
- 5.2. The views of parents and children when selecting an animal to keep in the setting, will be considered, as well as any allergies/phobias or issues that individual children may have.
- 5.3. All current legislation involved with specific animals e.g. avian flu and the keeping of chickens or other birds would be considered.
- 5.4. All full risk assessment will be completed, reviewed by relevant experts and in place before allowing animals into the Nursery.
- 5.5. All husbandry factors will be considered - suitable housing, cleaning regime, welfare, handling and dietary requirements will be met.
- 5.6. Appropriate, reliable, weekend and holiday care will be arranged and discussed prior to the animals being allowed into the Nursery.
- 5.7. The animals would be registered with the local vet as required, and the Trust would take out appropriate pet care health insurance.

- 5.8. All vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, would be kept up-to-date and recorded.
- 5.9. Staff will role model the correct handling and care of the animal and supervise experiences with them at all times.
- 5.10. Staff will ensure hands are washed after handling the animal, and that there is minimal contact with animal faeces or soiled bedding.
- 5.11. Staff will wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.

#### **Animals brought to the Nursery**

- 5.12. If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner at all times.
- 5.13. The owner carries out a risk assessment before the visit, which is made available to the Nursery Manager or Deputy. This will detail how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

#### **Wild animals on the Nursery site**

- 5.14. Due to the nature of the Nursery site, there is a high chance wild animals will be present within the operating areas.
- 5.15. Daily safety checks will monitor the site for damage, faeces and animal presence.
- 5.16. Methods for control of specific pest animals are detailed in the Zoonotic Disease Policy and Procedure.
- 5.17. Any animals located on the site may be used as part of educational activities, discussed and observed under supervision by staff.
- 5.18. If appropriate and considered necessary, animals may be relocated from the Nursery site to another part of Abbots Hall Farm, under advice from colleagues in the Conservation Directorate.
  
- 5.19 Any injuries sustained due to an animal on site will be recorded and treated using relevant policies and company forms, along with being documented on the EyWorks system and reported to parents or carers.

## 6. Appendices

This policy is to be read in conjunction with wider Essex Wildlife Trust Policies and Procedures

- 6.1 Accident and Incident Procedure
- 6.2 EYFS - Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (up to date version available via Government website)
- 6.3 First Aid Policy and Procedure
- 6.4 Health and Safety Policy and Procedure
- 6.5 Nature Nursery Risk Assessments
- 6.6 Sickness and Allergies Policy and Procedure
- 6.7 Zoonotic Disease Policy and Procedure