

# Sample Policy for Care and Handling of Pets In Child Care

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

When children have allergies to the pets at the center the pets will be removed and the area cleaned and disinfected. Please let us know if your children have allergies or there are any problems with our animals.

We do not have any biting, aggressive, or animals whose behavior will harm.

Handwashing posters are posted where ever animals are located.

We have the following pets on the premises and/or visiting  
pets \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Common health risks associated with these pets  
are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We do not have pets in toddler or infant classrooms or where any child eats, plays or sleeps. We do not have reptiles or amphibians, which typically carry salmonella, bacteria that can cause serious illness in humans, especially young children and infants and those individuals with compromised immune systems. We do not have birds of the parrot family (parrots, cockatiels, parakeets), which may carry psittacosis, a bacteria which can cause serious illness in humans.

Pets are located in the following areas:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pets that may visit will be located:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Staff assigned to care for the pets'  
are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SAMPLE POLICY FOR CARE AND HANDLING OF PETS IN CHILD CARE (CONTINUED)**

Plans for the care of pets evenings, holidays and days center is not operating are as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian name, addresses and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact and emergency veterinarian(after normal business hours) if not the same as above \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian visits, shot records, including rabies vaccinations are kept \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pet licensing information is kept \_\_\_\_\_

Pets requiring licensing on the premises are: \_\_\_\_\_

All pets will have fresh water and food daily or as appropriate for the individual animal. All cages, containers, litter boxes, etc. are cleaned and disinfected weekly or more often if needed. If odor is present the containers will be cleaned and disinfected immediately.

Pet cages, litter boxes, or containers will be taken to the utility/mop sink for cleaning and disinfecting. The sink will be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after use.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedure**

Staff will either bring the animal to the utility area or place the animal in a temporary cage or container.

- Clean and disinfect the sink and counter
- Wash hands and wear gloves

All debris and waste will be discarded in a plastic bag, tied and placed in the garbage

Container /cage etc. will be cleaned and disinfected using soap and water, rinse, and bleach solution (1 tablespoon to a quart of water) and cage/container will be allowed to air dry before returning the pet the cage or container unless an alternative method is approved.

## Sample Policy for Care and Handling of Pets In Child Care (continued)

Alternative Method:

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- Clean and disinfect the sink, faucet, counter
- Remove gloves and wash hands
- Return pet to container or cage
- Wash hands

The area around the pets will be kept clean at all times and disinfected at least once a day and more often if necessary.

Prior to interacting with animals' children will:

- Complete curriculum regarding the animal and how to interact gently and appropriately
- Children will be taken in small groups (3 or 4) and directly supervised by a staff member
- Only animals that have been trained and tolerate handling can interact with the children
- Animals showing stress during interactions will discontinue

In a disaster the pets emergency supplies and records are kept

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The staff assigned to the individual animal is responsible for the care and treatment of the animal at all times including disasters. Alternative staff are

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If you would like more information about the pets at the center please contact \_\_\_\_\_

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Plan last updated \_\_\_\_\_