

Animal Policy and Authorization Form

Introduction

Research shows that interacting with animals improves children's social skills by helping them learn responsibility, respect, and empathy. Having animals in this setting has also been proven to reduce stress while increasing motivation and engagement with learning. From time to time, this daycare may allow pets in the building or on the premises. This policy details how the daycare and its staff will handle interactions between children and pets. Please be sure to fill out and return page 3 of this document.

Guidelines and Policies Regarding Animals

- Types of animals allowed on the premises

Animals are allowed when properly inoculated and a veterinarian verifies it is free of diseases that are dangerous to human health and that it has had a rabies vaccination. All animals are required to have rabies vaccination on file.

The following animals are not allowed on the premises: reptiles, amphibians, poultry, rodents, ferrets, and any animal deemed as wild or dangerous; venomous or toxin-producing spiders and insects; animals more likely to spread rabies, such as bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes; and stray animals.

- Handling of Animals

Before allowing any interaction between children and an animal, staff members or a trained adult will teach the children how to behave appropriately with that animal. A staff member will carefully supervise each interaction. This includes ensuring children treat the animal appropriately, making sure each person washes their hands with soap and water before and after contact with an animal, its belongings, or its cage, and removing the child if the animal shows signs of aggression.

When an animal or pet is on the premises, a staff member will be assigned to its care. All animals must be properly caged, if necessary, fed, and maintained in a safe, clean, and sanitary condition. If a child behaves inappropriately with an animal, the staff member will remove the child for the safety of all involved.

- First Aid

The daycare is responsible for immediate treatment of any child sustaining bites, scratches, or any injury from animals. If the injury is too severe for our staff to treat, emergency services may be contacted. In either case, guardians will be notified of the circumstances and will also be advised to watch for signs of infection.

Risks

When animals are brought onto the premises, your child may be exposed to allergens. It is your responsibility to inform the daycare if your child has allergies, asthma, or other health conditions that would be exacerbated by the presence of animals. We will keep animals away from these children, and we will also confine pets to a limited area to reduce contact between these children and the animals.

Interactions with animals run an inherent risk of injury from bites or scratches, whether intentional or unintentional. To curb this risk, we will teach the children how to treat animals respectfully and safely, and we will immediately remove children from the interaction if the child behaves in a way that provokes the animal or if the animal shows signs of aggression. Some animals may carry diseases such as salmonella or E. coli. To avoid contact with these diseases, animals will not be permitted at any time in food areas. We will also ensure proper hand washing protocols for all adults and children, and we will clean and sanitize all areas where animals have been.

Emergency situations

If staff believes an animal is becoming a threat, the animal will immediately be caged or detained by its owner, or the supervising staff member and all children will be separated from the animal. If the animal becomes uncontrollable, emergency services will be contacted, and everyone will evacuate the area.

Please continue to the Guardian Authorization form on page 3.

Kinder Tykes
The Happiest Village

Guardian Authorization

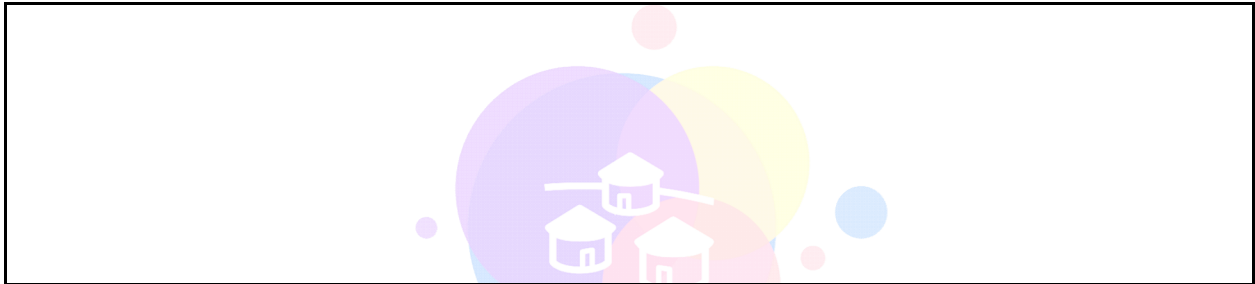
This policy and authorization serve as an agreement between this daycare facility and the child's guardian(s). By signing below, you authorize the daycare and its staff to welcome animals into the facility for interactions with your child.

Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Child's Name: _____

Please list your child's health conditions that are exacerbated by animals in the space below.



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