



The Butterfly Rooms (Incorporating Woodlands) LTD

Tank Hill Road | Purfleet | Essex | RM19 1TA

Registered Charity Number: 1148068 | Ofsted Number: 453859 | Company Number: 7984150 | *Limited by Guarantee*

Telephone Number: 01708 863 737

Animals in the Setting Policy (2026)

Policy Statement

Children learn about the natural world, including animals and other living creatures, as part of the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**. Carefully planned experiences involving animals can support children's understanding of life cycles, respect for living things, and the world around them.

This setting is committed to ensuring that any contact with animals is managed safely and hygienically, in line with the **EYFS Statutory Framework (effective September 2025)**, relevant health and safety legislation, safeguarding requirements, and **Thurrock local authority guidance**. The health, safety and welfare of children, staff, visitors, and animals is paramount at all times.

Procedures

Animals Visiting the Setting

- Any animal or creature brought into the setting by a visitor remains the **full responsibility of the animal's owner** at all times.
- A **written risk assessment** must be provided and approved in advance. This will detail:
 - The nature of the animal
 - Handling arrangements
 - Supervision requirements
 - Hygiene and infection-control measures
 - Identified risks and control measures
- The setting reserves the right to **refuse or cancel animal visits** if the animal is deemed unsuitable or if safeguarding, welfare or health and safety standards cannot be met.
- Children will be taught appropriate behaviour around animals and, where appropriate, how to handle them safely.
- All interactions with animals will be **directly supervised** by the animal's owner and a member of staff at all times.
- **Handwashing with soap and water is mandatory** for children and adults immediately after any contact with animals.
- Children will not come into contact with animal waste, soiled bedding, feeding equipment, or animal food.

Health, Safety and Infection Control

- Infection-control procedures will be followed in line with **UK Health Security Agency and DEFRA guidance** to minimise the risk of zoonotic disease.
- Disposable gloves will be worn by adults if cleaning, handling equipment, or managing waste is required.
- Animals showing signs of illness or distress will not be permitted to attend the setting.
- Any visit involving animals off-site will follow the setting's outings and risk assessment procedures.

Safeguarding and Welfare Arrangements

- A **designated senior member of staff** will:
 - Authorise animal visits
 - Review and approve risk assessments
 - Ensure safeguarding and welfare requirements are met
- Animals will **never be left alone with children**.
- All animal interactions will be supervised by staff who have completed safeguarding training.
- Parents and carers will be **consulted in advance** to identify:
 - Allergies
 - Phobias
 - Medical or sensory needs
- Children's individual medical and care records will be checked prior to any planned animal interaction.
- Any concerns regarding welfare, safety, or safeguarding will be managed in line with the setting's **Safeguarding Policy and Thurrock safeguarding procedures**.

Record Keeping

- The setting will maintain records of:
 - Risk assessments
 - Parental consultations and permissions
 - Any incidents or concerns arising from animal visits
- Records will be retained in accordance with EYFS requirements and will be available for inspection.

Legal Framework and Guidance

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (September 2025 – current)
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- UK Health Security Agency infection-control guidance
- DEFRA animal welfare guidance
- Thurrock Council Early Years and Safeguarding guidance

Policy Review

This policy will be **reviewed annually** or sooner if EYFS statutory requirements or local authority guidance change.

This policy was adopted by

The Butterfly Rooms Ltd

On

21st April 2026

Date to be reviewed

21st April 2027

Signed on behalf of the Management
committee



Name of signatory

Miss Aimee Thompson