**Pet Policy and Procedure**

*Pets can make a wonderful addition to a family, and teach children about responsibility, caring, respect for life and nature.*

*I appreciate that certain rules must be applied to ensure the safety of both the children and animals. These are the rules that I will follow:*

* Parents will be made aware of the pets in my home during induction.
* I will never leave children unsupervised while there are animals around.
* Children will be taught and expected to treat all animals with respect.
* Children will also be taught that not all animals are friendly and that they must treat unknown animals with care, checking with the owner before approaching the animal.
* Children will be taught and expected to wash their hands after handling animals and basic hygiene will be monitored
* Pet food, water, litter trays, and toys will be kept out of reach of children.
* My home is thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis.
* Pets will be kept out of food preparation areas due to the risk of cross-contamination. This can happen when harmful bacteria are spread onto food from other food surfaces, hands or equipment. Procedures are in place to adequately wash and disinfect work surfaces and cooking utensils before any food handling or preparation takes place.
* I will inform parents straight away if their child shows signs of an allergic reaction due to the pets in the home and follow the first aid procedure for allergies.
* I keep a log of worm/flea treatment and immunisations.
* All treatment records for my pet [insert type of pet] are available and any other treatment required is completed and a record kept.