
Sample Animals on Premises Policy

Care and Handling of Animals on Child Care Premises

Child Care Center Name: _____

Address: _____

Animal Restrictions

1. Animals will be inaccessible to children with pet allergies. Before a child enters an area where animals have been, it must be cleaned and disinfected.
2. No aggressive or harmful animals will be allowed on the premises.
3. No animals are allowed:
 - Around infants and toddlers
 - Food preparation areas
 - Children's restrooms
 - Children's hand washing sinks.
4. No animal droppings from cages or containers can be:
 - Where any child eats, sleeps, or actively plays
 - In entrances or hallways.
5. Animals not allowed around infants and toddlers: *
 - Parrot family (Parakeets, cockatiels, lovebirds etc.)
 - Reptiles and amphibians(Fish in properly installed and maintained aquariums may be considered)
6. Reptiles and amphibians are not allowed around children 5 years or younger. * Due to high risk of disease transmission these animals should not be on site.
7. All cages/containers will be secured and must not be a falling hazard.
8. Any equipment needed for the animal will be inaccessible to the children and safe.
9. Animals must be located only where the environment can be cleaned and sanitized (example: no carpeted areas).
10. Local health jurisdiction requirements for the number of animals on the premises must be met.

Animals on our Premises (including visiting animals)

- List of Animals:

- Common health risks associated with these animals:

- Animals are located in these areas (be specific, use floor plan if necessary):

* Reptiles and amphibians are salmonella carriers, which can be transmitted to humans, and can be fatal to young children or immune compromised persons. Psittacosis (disease transmitted by birds of the Parrot family) can be transmitted to humans and can be fatal to young children or immune compromised persons. Psittacosis and other bird diseases can aerosol as the animal passes through its waste matter. Salmonella can live on surfaces, clothing, etc for up to 72 hours and can also aerosol when animal passes through its waste matter.

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- Visiting animals are located in these areas:
 - The staff assigned to the individual animal is responsible for the care and treatment of the animal at all times including disasters. Names of staff responsible for the care and treatment of the animals:
 - Alternative staff:
 - Plan to care for animals when our facility is closed:

Our Animal Doctor

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Contact and Telephone: _____

Animal Records

- Animals requiring licenses:
- Where animal's records are kept (health, shots, vaccinations, licenses, etc):
- In a disaster the animal's emergency supplies and records are kept:

Care of Animals

1. Provide appropriate food and water.
2. Animal containers and cages are cleaned and disinfected weekly or as often as needed (immediate cleaning and disinfecting if animal odors are evident).
3. Cages, litter boxes, and containers will be cleaned and disinfected in utility areas (not around child areas).
4. All litter boxes will be inaccessible to children (not in kitchens, food prep areas or restrooms, corridors, entries, classrooms, where children play or eat, etc.)
5. Animals are not allowed to use the children's play areas inside or outside as a restroom.
6. All containers or cages will prevent debris from spilling out of the container or cage.

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- Our litter boxes are located (if applicable): _____

- Outdoor animals litter area (separate from children's area): _____

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedure

Staff will either bring the animal to the utility area or place the animal in a temporary cage or container. The area around the pets will be kept clean at all times and disinfected at least once a day and more often if necessary.

- Clean and disinfect the utility 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). Cage/container will be allowed to air dry before returning the pet, the cage, or container unless an alternative method is approved.
- Clean and disinfect the sink, faucet, and counter.
- Remove gloves and wash hands.
- Return pet to container or cage.
- Wash hands.

Alternative Method (to be approved by DEL Health Specialist): _____

Child-Animal Interaction

Curriculum regarding the animal and how to interact gently and appropriately. (Describe below)

- Children will be taken in small groups (3 or 4) and directly supervised by a staff member.
- Only trained animals that tolerate handling can interact with the children. Must be healthy and free of disease or pests (fleas, ticks, etc.)
- Immediately stop interaction with animals showing stress or harmful behaviors. (Decide about keeping such the animals).
- If children handle/touch/hold the animals or their cages/containers procedures and rules will be in place (Note: a handwashing poster must be posted by the animal).

Remember: Children and staff will wash their hands in the nearest hand-washing sink after handling animals or touching containers where the animal is located. Post handwashing sign near the animal cage/container, etc.

STAFF TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Animals on Premises Policy

Name of Center _____

Date Policy Was Last Updated by Center: _____

I, (Print Name) _____, have read and
Understand the Child Care Center's Animal on Premises Policy.
{ } I agree with this policy; or
{ } I have concerns about this policy and wish to speak to the director.

Parent Signature

Date

Revised Model Policy: 2/05
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