



MELISSA'S CHILDCARE

PET POLICY

Purpose

This policy outlines how we manage the presence of a pet dog in the home to ensure the **health, safety and wellbeing of children**, in line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) safeguarding and welfare requirements**.

Our Pet

We have a pet dog named **Samira**, who lives in the family home. Samira is a family pet and is **not caged**.

Risk Assessment and Supervision

- A **written risk assessment** is in place and reviewed regularly to ensure that Samira's presence does not pose a risk to children.
- Samira is **never left alone with children**, and all interactions are **closely supervised at all times**.
- If Samira shows signs of stress, tiredness, or discomfort, she is **removed immediately from the area**.
- Samira has **safe spaces within the home** where children do not enter, allowing her time to rest undisturbed.

Interaction with Children

- Children are only allowed to interact with Samira **with parental permission** and under direct adult supervision.
- Children are taught to:
 - Treat animals with **kindness and respect**
 - Use **gentle hands**
 - Understand that animals should not be disturbed when eating, sleeping or resting
- Children are supported to understand that **not all animals are safe to approach**, and they must always ask an adult before touching any animal.

Health and Hygiene

- Children **wash their hands thoroughly** after any contact with Samira, supported by an adult, to promote good hygiene practices.
- Samira's:
 - Food is stored securely **out of children's reach**



- Food and water bowls are placed in an area **not accessible to children** and cleaned regularly
 - Any areas used by Samira are kept clean to reduce the risk of infection.
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Health Care of the Dog

- Samira's **vaccinations are kept up to date.**
 - She receives:
 - **Monthly flea treatment**
 - **Regular worming treatment** (every three months)
 - Any illness, injury, or change in Samira's behaviour is taken seriously and risk assessments are updated as needed.
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Safeguarding and EYFS Compliance

- The presence of a pet dog is managed in line with the EYFS requirement to **safeguard children and promote their welfare.**
 - Samira is **never counted as part of the learning environment** without appropriate supervision and planning.
 - Parents are informed that a dog lives in the home and are encouraged to discuss any concerns.
 - This policy is reviewed regularly and whenever there is a significant change to circumstances.
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