

## 19 PROCEDURE: CARE OF ANIMALS

### Aim

To ensure that all animals are safe and well cared for and that their habitats are hygienic. To protect the children from any harm that may be caused by the keeping of animals at school. Reg 24 (k).

### 19.1 Care of Mammals and Birds

- 19.1.1 All mammals shall be provided with a habitat appropriate to their size and needs and where possible have opportunity to roam freely within the confines of the school environment.
- 19.1.2 Their habitat will be cleaned as often as deem appropriate in conjunction with the children.
- 19.1.3 The children will assist in feeding the appropriate food and ensuring there is fresh water daily.
- 19.1.4 Children will only handle the animals when supervised.
- 19.1.5 Children will be properly instructed on how to care for and handle animals.
- 19.1.6 A solution to care will be found for animals when the school is closed.
- 19.1.7 Providing appropriate housing can be ensured children can take the animals home on weekends or overnight.

### 19.2 Care of Fish

- 19.2.1 Fish will be kept in oxygenated water in an appropriately sized tank which is securely fixed.
- 19.2.2 Fish will be fed as necessary by the children.
- 19.2.3 Tank will be cleaned and water replaced as necessary.
- 19.2.4 A solution to care will be found for the fish when the school is closed or a feeding block will be used.

### 19.3 Other Animals e.g. insects, tadpoles, etc

- 19.3.1 From time to time the school may study insects, tadpoles, worms etc. These will all be maintained in a suitable environment and supplied with adequate food and water. They will be released once matured into an appropriate environment.
- 19.3.2 Children will be instructed on safe handling as necessary.

### 19.4 Visiting Animals

- 19.4.1 Children will be supported to interact with visiting animals in appropriate ways.
- 19.4.2 Teachers will ensure that any child who has allergies to a particular animal will not come into contact with them.