

14. Animal Health and Safety

EYFS: 3.64

At Carousel Childcare (Exmouth) we recognise that pets can help meet the emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

Nursery pets*

At Carousel Childcare we have African Land Snails

- All pets are homed appropriately and securely
- Only staff have responsibility for cleaning out the animals (where applicable). Protective equipment such as gloves and aprons are used
- We ensure all pets have had all of their relevant vaccinations, are registered with the vet and are child-friendly
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals, and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while pets are being handled. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

Special Occasions

- During Spring time we usually have chicks as part of our theme. We will follow the same procedure as above as if they were our own pets. They normally stay in our care for about a month.
- In the past we have had external visits e.g. guide dogs, the wild experience bringing a selection of different animals. Again we will follow the procedure above and will make sure the animals are child friendly.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>January 2017</i>		<i>January 2018</i>