

Risk Assessment Form

Risk Assessment

Assessment carried out by: Jennifer Bird
Date: Joining School November 2021

Assessment Date: 29.9.21

Event: School Pet – Rabbit in Nurture room

Hazards	Who might be harmed?	What are we doing to manage the risk?	Tick if in Place	Outcome H/M/L risk
Scratches, bites, nips etc	Rabbit : being dropped Children & adults: being bitten, skin broken, bleeding	Children taught how to safely hold and look after rabbit to limit animals becoming stressed. Adults will ensure that Rabbit is calm before being picked up. If rabbit is being carried from one location to another over a distance they should be transferred into a small box to ensure their safety. Scratches, nips and biting cannot be avoided altogether. Appropriate first aid precautions and training in place. Children only allowed to handle any animal under staff supervision. Children warned not to put fingers through bars. Rabbits were selected for their calm temperament	Yes	L
Safety and care of animals	Rabbit: being harmed, unclean environment, not enough access to food and water	Children to understand high expectations regarding their behaviour around the rabbit. The Nurture team will check the rabbit daily for signs of stress. signs of stress or illness: weight loss (from weekly weigh in), hiding- isolating itself from the children, seems overly nervous, sleeping more than normal, hair loss, poor appetite. The Nurture team will lead the cleaning and care (food, water, grooming) of the rabbit. Signs of good health: agile, clear and bright eyes, clean nose, clean ears, fur is clean and matt free, nails are a good length, feet should not be sore, teeth should a good length, good appetite, interacting with children, If any of the following are noticed a vet will be consulted: • Any sudden change in behaviour or habits (vocalizing more or less, scratching, licking, etc.) • Any change in eating or drinking (ingesting either more or less, refusing favourite foods, etc.) • Any change in appearance (loss of fur, swollen areas, squinty eyes, flaky skin, etc.) • Any unusual discharge from the body (runny nose or eyes, odd urine, bleeding, etc.) • Any change in movement (limping, unwillingness to move, etc.) • Any change in urination or faeces The rabbit will stay in school overnight but go home with staff member over weekend. During school holidays, a member of staff will take it home. A secure and clean cage will ensure that they cannot escape, are not harmed and are healthy. The rabbit will be kept indoors in a quite and calm environment but not isolated from daily life in school. Cage will include enrichments such as places to hide, climb over and places to gnaw to keep teeth from over growing.	Yes	L

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Handling including allergies	Children's parents or carers sign a consent form for the school pets during induction. This will allow parents to indicate whether they give consent for their child to be in contact with the rabbit.	Any allergies are also highlighted during children's induction, which should alert us to allergies to pets. Children known to have allergic reactions to specific animals will have restricted access to those that may trigger a response. When handling pets children will be under direct supervision. Children will not consume food or drink. Children will wash their hands with soap and water before and directly after handling the rabbit.	Yes	L
Fear	Rabbit: stressed, being dropped Children and adults: stressed, scared.	Children will be given a choice in whether they want to hold the rabbit.. The rabbit will be introduced slowly to the children.		L