

SUMMERFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PETS IN SCHOOL POLICY

RATIONALE

Studies show that encouraging children to take an interest in animals can have a positive effect on them and can be used to improve human and animal welfare. Some of the benefits have been identified as follows:

AIMS:

- To encourage a respect and reverence for life and thereby improve their relationships with other pupils, parents and teachers
- To foster a sense of responsibility in children
- To teach children to nurture and respect life
- To lead to the development of hobbies/careers in animal care
- To improve academic achievement

Looking after a school pet:

At Summerfields we aim to promote good practice in animal care. Children are taught correct procedures in handling and caring for animals; they are encouraged to take a shared responsibility for the care of the animals, under direct supervision. Children will be taught how to interact gently with our school pets whilst under adult supervision.

Responsibilities

The Head Teacher will ensure that school:

- Obtains well socialised young animals from a reputable source
- Ensures that each animal enjoys an optimum environment, in social groups, if appropriate. We are aware that keeping mixed sex animals can lead to breeding and result in welfare problems
- Routinely uses health measures as advised by the vet - vaccination, flea prevention and worm control where appropriate
- Pets and their quarters are kept clean and safe at all times
- Provide a high quality, appropriate diet
- Children always wash hands after handling
- Any sick animals are promptly isolated and examined by a vet
- Careful arrangements for holiday and weekend care are made, either with a member of staff or a pupils' family

Monitoring

PSHE Leader and the Head Teacher will monitor the policy.

Signed:

Date: