

## CARE AND HANDLING OF ANIMALS ON CHILD CARE CENTER PREMISES

**Child Care Center Name:**

**Address:**

### Animal Restrictions

1. Animals will be inaccessible to children with pet allergies. Before a child enters an area where animals have been, it must be cleaned and disinfected.
2. No aggressive or harmful animals will be allowed on the premises.
3. No animals are allowed:
  - Around infants and toddlers
  - Where any child eats, sleeps or active plays areas, entrances, hallways
  - Food preparation areas
  - Children's restrooms
  - Children's hand washing sinks etc.
4. Animals not allowed around infants and toddlers:
  - Parrot family (Parakeets, cockatiels, lovebirds etc.)
  - Reptiles and amphibians
5. Animals not allowed in toddler or infant rooms, spaces (Fish in properly installed and maintained aquariums may be considered)
6. Reptiles and amphibians are not allowed around children 5 years or younger. Nor can they handle the animals or containers. Due to high risk of disease transmission these animals should not be on site.
7. All cages/containers will be secured and must not be a falling hazard.
8. Any equipment needed for the animal will be inaccessible to the children and safe.
9. Animals must be located only where the environment can be cleaned and sanitized (example: no carpeted areas).
10. Local health jurisdiction requirements for the number of animals on the premises must be met.

### Animals on our Premises (including visiting animals)

List of Animals:

Common health risks associated with these animals:

Animals are located in these areas (be specific, use floor plan if necessary):

Visiting animals are located in these areas:

The staff assigned to the individual animal is responsible for the care and treatment of the animal at all times including disasters. Staff responsible for animals are:

Alternative staff are:

Plan to care for animals when our facility is closed:

**Our Animal Doctor**

Name:

Phone:

Emergency Contact and Telephone:

## **Animal Records**

Animals requiring licenses:

Where animal's records are kept (health, shots, vaccinations, licenses, etc):

In a disaster the animal's emergency supplies and records are kept:

## **Care of Animals**

1. Provide appropriate food and water.
2. Animal containers and cages are cleaned and disinfected weekly or as often as needed (immediate cleaning and disinfecting if animal odors are evident).
3. Cages, litter boxes, and containers will be cleaned and disinfected in utility areas – not around child areas.
4. All litter boxes will be inaccessible to children (not in kitchens, food prep areas or restrooms, corridors, entries, classrooms, where they play or eat, etc.)
5. Animals are not allowed to use the children's play areas inside or outside as a restroom.
6. All containers or cages will prevent debris from spilling out of the container or cage.

Our litter boxes are located:

Outdoor animals litter area (separate from children's area):

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedure**

Staff will either bring the animal to the utility area or place the animal in a temporary cage or container. The area around the pets will be kept clean at all times and disinfected at least once a day and more often if necessary.

- Clean and disinfect the utility sink and counter.
- Wash hands and wear gloves.
- All debris and waste will be discarded in a plastic bag, tied and placed in the garbage.
- Container /cage etc. will be cleaned and disinfected using soap and water, rinse, and bleach solution refer to “Guidelines for Mixing Bleach”. Cage/container will be allowed to air dry before returning the pet, the cage, or container unless an alternative method is approved.
- Clean and disinfect the sink, faucet, and counter.
- Remove gloves and wash hands.
- Return pet to container or cage.
- Wash hands.

Alternative Method (to be approved by Health Specialist):

### **Child-Animal Interaction**

Curriculum regarding the animal and how to interact gently and appropriately. (Describe below)

- Children will be taken in small groups (3 or 4) and directly supervised by a staff member.
- Only trained animals that tolerate handling can interact with the children. Must be healthy and free of disease or pests (fleas, ticks, etc.)
- Immediately stop interaction with animals showing stress or harmful behaviors. (Decide about keeping such the animals).
- If children handle/touch/hold the animals or their cages/containers the following procedures and rules will be in place (Note: a handwashing poster must be posted by the animal).

***Remember: Children and staff will wash their hands in the nearest hand-washing sink after handling animals or touching containers where the animal is located. Post handwashing sign near the animal cage/container, etc.***

**STAFF TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Date Policy Was Last Updated by Center: \_\_\_\_\_

I, (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand this

**Pet Policy and I**

{ } agree with this policy; or

{ } have concerns about this policy and wish to speak to the director.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**