

School Animals

We are receiving more and more queries about having pets in schools.

Animals are **never a complete No** in schools – the animals can provide joy and education within a school.

However, serious consideration must be taken, and a suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment **MUST** be created, be in place and shared with all in the school, including parents.

Things to consider:

- Does it need to happen? This situation shouldn't be a pet sitting service just because you own a dog (for example), it doesn't mean it should be in school to make things easier for you.
- The type of animal
- The breed of the animal
- Vaccinations, are they up to date and you have the evidence to say this
- Insurance, they (the animal) will need to be insured
- You will also need to let your building/contents insurance know that there will be an animal present and that may increase premiums
- The worming and flea protocol
- Having the animal temperamentally tested to ensure they are safe around children and in noisy environments
- Allergies – do any of the staff or children have allergies? How would these be managed
- The diet of the animal – for example raw feed dogs can transmit antibiotic resistant E.coli and salmonella
- Location, where will the animals be kept in the day and at night
- Waste, how will it be dealt with
- Additional cleaning needs
- Education for the children on how to behave with animals, hand hygiene etc.
- Therapy animals also need a Risk Assessment and considerations made

