



Approved by the Governing Body on:

Review Date:

## ONGAR PLACE PRIMARY SCHOOL ANIMALS IN SCHOOL POLICY

Ongar Place Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The recruitment and appointment of staff, school policies and procedures always consider the safeguarding of children as the first priority.

There are sound educational advantages to be gained from pupils having immediate experience of animals, right from early years, and therefore it is expected that schools should for this reason welcome animals into school. Young people should be taught to develop an awareness and recognition that all animals have a right to life and that all animals have needs. They should be given the opportunity to develop responsible attitudes towards animals, a duty of care and respect for animal life. If animals are to be kept in school there are certain legal constraints as to which animals should or should not be kept, how they should be obtained, and about their care and protection.

Key points arising from the relevant legislation (see Health & Safety Manual F Ed 4 Page 6):

- Staff in Surrey maintained schools should not sell animals to pupils.
- Teachers must be sure that animals sent home to be looked after over holiday periods are to be well treated.
- Schools purchasing animals to be kept in school should ensure that they are bought from reputable sources.
- Sick animals should not be brought into school by pupils or members of staff.
- It is legal and educationally valid to bring frogspawn into classrooms to observe the development of tadpoles and frogs. However, only a small number of animals should be involved for conservation reasons, and frogs should be returned to the area from which the spawn was obtained. It should be noted that the Natterjack Toad and Crested Newt do not fall into this category as they have full protection.
- Schools should note the RSPCA is opposed to exhibitions or presentations of animals in circuses and travelling collections or menageries. This is due to concerns over the animals' welfare and suffering being caused. The educational value is questioned by the RSPCA. While not banning such activities Surrey LEA requests schools to consider RSPCA policy and to the welfare of the animals involved.

Agreed: October 2013

Review Date: ~~October 2016~~ Autumn 2019

Author: Head Teacher

Policy: Statutory/**Recommended**

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