



Introduction

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans, where they may cause ill health.

Making handling pets safe

While the hazard from infection resulting from handling pets are real, the risks are readily controlled by everyday measures. The following sensible steps will help make your visit even more safe, healthy and enjoyable.

Before handling pets:

Always ensure that the children wash, or are helped to wash, their hands thoroughly before contacting animals, and follow the other rules suggested below:

Discuss with pupils the rules of handling, stressing that they must not eat or chew outside the areas in which you permit them to do so

Check that cuts, grazes etc. on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.

During and after handling:

Always ensure that the children -

Do not kiss animals

Always wash their hands thoroughly before and after eating, after any contact with pets

Do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons etc. in mouths

Listen carefully and follow the instructions and information given by staff

Approach and handle animals quietly and gently;

Do not chase, frighten or torment the animals.

Remember:

The children are your responsibility during handling of pets.

You should supervise them at all times during handling, especially during hand washing to make sure that each child washes thoroughly.

If any child shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after handling pets, advise their parent/ carer to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with pets.

This policy will be reviewed IN August 2016

