












PETS		
VERSION No	2	
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Policy Statement

Detailed below is guidance for staff regarding the introduction of pets within the home: this applies to any pet. If an exotic pet is requested to be housed with the resident then a full veterinary assessment of its needs, risks and habitat must be undertaken in order for a decision to be made. Based on the following procedure the home will risk assess, on a pet-by-pet basis, their suitability to be welcomed into the home.

Pets Assessment

If appropriate, the **Facilities and Emergency Manager** should ensure that all pets are:



-  Fully vaccinated; veterinary certificates regarding appropriate vaccinations should be kept in a safe place within the home
-  Treated with a broad-spectrum helminthicide (i.e. wormed) every 3 months, where applicable
-  In a 'healthy' condition: if pets become ill (e.g. with diarrhoea) they must be excluded from resident contact and the advice of a vet sought
-  Regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection (e.g. fleas and other ectoparasites): if fleas are found the pet is to be treated with an appropriate insecticide
-  Feed using designated stainless steel or earthenware bowls, and in designated areas only. After feeding, bowls should be removed, washed and stored dry.
-  Not allowed into food preparation or consumption areas, clinical rooms (e.g. treatments room, sluice room) or the laundry room.
-  Prevented from visiting residents who are ill with diarrhoea and vomiting.
-  The **housekeeper** is responsible for ensuring that animal excreta are removed from cat litter trays on a daily basis, if relevant.
-  The contact details of the local veterinary practice are available to staff as required.

Animal Visitors to the Home



Animal visits to the home, whether initiated by staff or residents themselves, must be by prior arrangement with the person in charge of the home. The potential visit should be discussed and assessed by the person in charge. In addition, visiting animals must be in a 'healthy' condition and free from illness. Visiting dogs must be brought to the home on a lead. Cats must be brought to the home in a cat box.

The arranged visit must take place in the presence of an appropriate member of staff. The handler must report to the person in charge both upon arrival and departure from the home.

The pet should not be allowed to approach any resident(s) without the handler first ascertaining:

-  Whether the resident is likely to be allergic to the animal's fur or hair
-  Whether the resident wishes to be visited

The following hygiene procedures should also be carried out:

-  Following the visit, the hands and forearms of all those who made contact with the animal must be thoroughly washed
-  Staff handling resident pets must wear a disposable plastic apron. Immediately afterwards the apron must be removed, and hands and forearms washed.

Supporting Literature

Department of Health (2006). *Infection Control Guidance for Care Homes*. London: Department of Health.











East Cheshire NHS Trust (2010). *Assistance Dogs and Pat a Dog Policy*.

Malone-Lee, J. et al. (1988). "Cross infection between animals and man: possible feline transmission of *Staphylococcus aureus* infection in Humans?". *Journal of Hospital Infection* 12, 29–34.











Phear, D.N. (1996) "A Study of Animal Companionship in a Day Hospice". *Palliative Medicine* 10, 336–338.

Wilson, J. (1995). *Infection Control in Clinical Practice*. London: Bailliere Tindall.





Guidelines for a Resident Wanting to Bring a Pet into the Home Permanently. Checks:

-  **Feeding routine**
-  **Sleeping habits**
-  **Other known behaviours or habits**
-  **Veterinary checks**
-  **History of worming and flea prevention procedures**
-  **Any public liability insurance they may have**
-  **What is to happen in the event of:**
 -  The pet's death
 -  The death of the pet owner before their pet
 -  The owner moving from the home on a permanent basis

Discussion with the Resident, their Family or Representative to include:

-  Understanding and agreement that the pet may be removed from the home if it negatively impacts on other residents or staff
-  Acknowledgement that the manager has the final say regarding the accommodation of the pet
-  That the owner of the pet either subscribes to an insurance scheme, which ensures payment of veterinary fees, or pays personally for all costs associated with the care of the pet
-  Any cost incurred by the home as a result of damage caused by the pet should be met by the resident, or by their family or representative
-  Provision of food and other items such as lead, bedding, litter tray and regular supply of litter, or sanded sheets for caged birds etc.
-  Ideally, dogs or cats should be neutered before coming into the home
-  Agreement from other residents
-  All cost implications of maintaining the pet, and that these must be met by the resident or their family or representative
-  All transport to and from the vet for treatment will be undertaken by the resident's family or representative etc.
-  Circumstances where the resident is unable to fully understand this agreement, in which case the family or representative must agree to take full responsibility in abiding by this agreement and acting on their behalf.

The following Support from the Care Home will be provided wherever possible:

-  Fenced garden space
-  Animal-loving staff to exercise pet if owner is unable to and this is required, and to appropriately clear up and dispose of any mess
-  Staff who are prepared to empty litter trays etc. if owner is unable to
-  Staff who will help with feeding pet if owner is unable to



Staff who will transport the pet to and from the vet in an emergency situation, only if the owner or their family etc. are not able to do so.

Training Statement

During induction staff are made aware of the organisation's policies and procedures. Regular reviews of training needs are identified via the supervision and appraisal systems. This ensures that the needs of the service and its users are met.

*Related Policy
Infection Control
Meeting Needs*

PETS RISK ASSESSMENT				
The organisation will ensure that pet owners or their family have their pets:	Yes	No	Actions Required	By whom? <i>(usually it should be done by the pet owner or their family)</i>
Fully vaccinated; veterinary certificates regarding appropriate vaccinations are kept				
Treated with a broad-spectrum helminthicide (i.e. wormed) monthly, where applicable				
In a 'healthy' condition; if pets become ill (e.g. with diarrhoea) they must be excluded from resident contact and the advice of a vet sought				
Regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection (e.g. fleas and other ectoparasites); if fleas are found the pet is to be treated with an appropriate insecticide				
Fed using designated stainless steel or earthenware bowls and in designated areas only. At the end of feeding, bowls should be removed, washed and stored dry				
Not allowed into food preparation or consumption areas, clinical rooms (e.g. treatments room, sluice room) or the laundry room				
Prevented from visiting residents who are ill with diarrhoea and vomiting, or residents who do not wish them in their room				
The housekeeper is responsible for ensuring that animal excreta is cleaned up and disposed of as required				
Adequate bedding and sleeping area is available for the pet				
Pets such as dogs will be taken for a walk by the owner or a family member if possible. Staff will only take the pet to run in the home's garden				