

PETS IN CARE HOMES

Single
Point
Lesson

The presence of pets or visiting animals may enhance the quality of life for the sick, elderly and those with dementia. However, disease can be acquired through contact with animals.

Choice of animal – factors

Which staff member(s) is held responsible for the pet?

What is residents preference?

Any staff/residents have any allergies or objections?

Feeding and grooming arrangements?

Cleaning/disposal of excrement?

Exotic/tropical pets not recommended.



Veterinary care

Vet check each year.

Vaccinations annually

Worming and flea treatment.

Keep claws trimmed.

Food and feeding

Animals not fed in the kitchen.

Pet food stored in a designated area.

Fresh water available at all times.

Feeding areas clean and pest free.

Once opened canned food should be used the same day.

Waste and Litter

.Wear disposable gloves and aprons when cleaning and emptying litter trays or cages and handling animal faeces.

.Litter should be cleaned and changed daily and disinfected weekly.

.Pregnant women should not deal with litter as risk of toxoplasmosis.

General precautions

After touching animals staff and residents should wash their hands. Cleaning schedules and records kept of pets eating drinking and accommodation e.g. bowls, bottles, bedding, bed, cage, hutch. aquarium, fishbowl etc.

Animals must be kept well groomed and clean.

Wash feeding and other equipment separate in warm soapy water.

The Infection Control team can be contacted if you require any additional advice/support on 01744 457314