

**POLICY NO.56 Pet Policy****REV: 03 DATE: 10.08.2022****POLICY Statement**

Scamps & Scholars believes that having pets, in general visiting our service is of great benefit to the children as they will experience and learn skills which will support them throughout their lives.

While there are many benefits of keeping or having visits of pets in the service, there are issues and concerns to think about in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the children and the animals.

- Animals will be carefully selected considering their size, care needs, temperament, health risks and appropriateness for children
- All animals will be cared for properly during their visit including feeding, exercise, interaction with them and cleaning of bedding or living area
- Parents and / or staff members will be assigned duties of care for the animals if the visit is prolonged.
- Children will always be supervised if handling the animals.
- No child will be forced to engage with any animal visit to the centre.
- Children and staff will always wash their hands after handling the animals.
- Children will not have access to any animal waste.
- Animals will not be kept near the food preparation area.
- No animal with a risk of carrying parasites, bacteria or similar are allowed on the premises.
- A risk assessment will be carried out for any animal introduced to the service.
- If a child has an allergy to the animal, this will be accommodated for on an individual level

**Approval Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Implementation Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(On behalf of the Board of Directors)**