

Caban Y Faenol CYF

Animal Handling Policy

At Caban Y Faenol the children learn about the world around them, and this includes animal-related activities. These activities and experiences can include contact with animals and other living creatures, either within the setting or during a visit to other locations.

Caban Y Faenol will take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the staff, the children under their care, students on work experience, visitors and volunteers, and also that of the animals involved during these activities.

Principles

Caban Y Faenol recognises the benefits of arranging and promoting contact with animals and other living creatures, in order to enrich children's learning experiences, and in addition, to meeting the emotional needs of staff, the children under their care, students on work experience, visitors and volunteers.

Caban Y Faenol recognises that handling animals can enrich children's learning experiences regarding caring for others, the importance of continually caring for animals, and of their habitat and feeding requirements. However, we also acknowledge the need to ensure the safety of staff, the children under their care, students on work experience, visitors and volunteers, and also the safety and welfare of the animals or other living creatures.

Children's Rights

Promoting the health, safety and welfare of children is our way of respecting children's rights, as outlined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; in particular:

- Article 6: every child has the inherent right to life. Governing bodies shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.
- Article 27: children have the right to a standard of living adequate to their physical and mental needs. Governing bodies should assist parents to implement this right.
- Article 31 children have the right to relax and play, and to participate in a wide range of activities.

Animal Welfare

Staff members responsible for an animal or other living creature within the Caban Y Faenol have a legal obligation to ensure that the animal or living creature's welfare needs are met, as noted in the Animal Welfare Act 2006:

- suitable diet, including access to fresh water at all times

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- adequate accommodation
- suitable companionship, according to the needs of that specific animal or living creature
- space and opportunity to exhibit natural behaviours
- defence from pain, suffering, injury and sickness

Prior to deciding whether or not to have an animal or other living creature living in the setting, we will:

- hold open discussions with the staff and management committee to ensure that it is ready to take on the responsibility of caring for an animal or living creature, and formalise this agreement in writing.
- ensure that each staff and committee member is aware of their duty to care for this animal or creature on a daily basis.
- outline alternative arrangements for care, in the case of absence (e.g. staff member's illness).
- ensure that we can meet the financial requirements for the animal's care, e.g. vet's bills.
- hold discussions regarding any hygiene or safety risks, any specific health risks (e.g. airborne diseases) arising from keeping that specific animal or creature. Consideration must be given to a pregnant woman's ability to handle the animal.
- note clearly in the Statement of Purpose that they intend to keep an animal or live creature within the setting, and / or that they intend to arrange contact with animals and other living creatures as part of a planned activity.

At Caban Y Faenol we are aware of the possibility that this may be the first time that some of the children in the setting come into contact with this type of animal.

Caban Y Faenol will:

- ensure that staff are aware of signs and symptoms of a first-time or unknown allergic reaction in a child. These may include: a rash, dislike, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth or tongue, swelling of the airways or lungs, wheezing or anaphylaxis.
- Ask parents/carers to share all information regarding allergies or allergic reactions that they are aware of, by completing the relevant paperwork.

Should a child require urgent medical care and Caban is unable to contact the parent/carer/guardian or other emergency contact, then we will make the necessary arrangements in order to ensure the child's safety.

By signing the childcare agreement and the registration form, parents/carers permit the Caban Y Faenol to authorise any urgent medical treatment which may be necessary in an emergency. A person with legal parental responsibility must have signed this form.

Pets within the Setting

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Caban Y Faenol will:

- seek the opinion of parents/carers, children and the owners of the building when choosing an animal or other living creature to keep as a pet in the setting.
- complete a risk assessment, which considers any hygiene or safety risks which would stem from keeping a particular animal or creature.
- ensure that the animal or creature is provided with a suitable home and care.
- ensure that the animal or creature is given the correct food/nutrition at the appropriate time.
- ensure that any inoculations or medical treatment that the animal or creature receives and their general care requirements are recorded and kept up to date.
- ensure that the animal or creature's home is cleaned regularly.
- ensure that staff and others wear disposable gloves when cleaning the animal or creature's home.
- ensure that staff supervise children on each occasion they handle the animal or creature.
- ensure that the children are aware of, and follow, the correct handling procedure for that animal or creature.
- ensure that staff and children wash their hands after handling that animal or creature.
- ensure that staff and children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature's food.
- Make appropriate arrangements for the animal / creature's care during the periods when the Caban Y Faenol is closed, e.g. over the weekend /Christmas holidays.
- ensure that furniture is cleaned with anti-bacterial fluid in case there are traces of the animal or cage.

A visit by an Animal or other Living Creature to the Setting.

Caban Y faenol will:

- seek the opinion of parents/carers, children and the owners of the building when choosing an animal or other living creature to visit the setting.
- complete a risk assessment, which considers any hygiene or safety risks arising from a visit by a particular animal or creature.
- ensure that the company bringing animals to the setting has appropriate public liability insurance in place.
- check allergies, including allergies to animals, in order to ensure that none of the children, staff, students on work experience, volunteers or visitors to Caban Y Faenol are allergic to that specific animal or creature.
- obtain permission from parents/carers for children to handle / touch the animal or creature.
- ensure that a suitable space / home is provided for the animal / creature during the visit.

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- check with the owner that any inoculations, medical treatments or care requirements have been fully met, are up to date and recorded.
- ensure that staff supervise children each time they handle the animal or creature.
- ensure that children are aware of, and follow, the correct procedure for handling the animal or creature.
- ensure that staff and children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature.
- ensure that staff and children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature's food.
- ensure that furniture is cleaned with anti-bacterial fluid in case there are traces of the animal or cage.

Visits to the Farm, Pet Shop and Similar Locations

Caban Y Faenol will:

- obtain a parent/carer's written permission before taking the children on a visit.
- obtain written permission from the parent/carer to permit their child to handle / touch the animal or creature.
- check allergies, including allergies to animals, in order to ensure that none of the children, staff, students on work experience, volunteers or visitors to Caban Y Faenol are allergic to that specific animal or creature.
- complete a risk assessment, which considers any hygiene or safety risks arising from the visit.
- ensure that staff supervise children each time they handle the animal or creature
- ensure that children are aware of, and follow, the correct procedure for handling the animal or creature
- ensure staff and children wash hands after dealing with animals or other living creatures.
- ensure staff and children wash hands after handling the feed of the animals or other living creatures.
- ensure cleaning of mud and other debris from shoes worn on such a visit
- ensure that shoes worn on such a visit are not worn indoors.

Accompanying Policies

Health, Safety and Welfare Policy

Transportation and Transporting Children Policy

Preventing Children from Straying Policy

Asthma Policy

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Useful Contacts and Further Information

We recommend referring to the publications and websites below for further information:

Animal Welfare Act 2006: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/cy/ukpga/2006/45/contents>

Herts for Learning: Blog – Keeping Animals in School:
<https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/keeping-animals-school>

RSPCA: Animals in School:
https://education.rspca.org.uk/education/teachers/animalfriendlyschools/details/-/articleName/TEACH_AnimalFriendlySchoolsAnimalsInSchools

RSPCA: Pets in School:
https://education.rspca.org.uk/education/teachers/schoolcouncils/details/-/articleName/TEACH_SchoolCouncilsPetsInSchool