

Animal Care Infection Control Policy

The Multiple Intelligence Hub (MIH)

On 1 October 2018 new Government regulations came into force that affect anyone conducting the boarding of animals; the breeding of dogs; the hiring out of horses; the provision of day care facilities for dogs; the selling of animals as pets; and any person keeping or training animals for exhibition.

These regulations can be downloaded below:

- [Animal welfare regulations 2018](#)
- [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#)

The new licensing regime requires that all applicants meet the same, up-to-date, minimum welfare standards for animals across the country. Businesses will be licensed by the relevant local authority and will have to meet these minimum standards in order to hold and retain a licence.

The Department for Food, Environmental and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has issued guidance which you will need to comply with by 31 December 2018.

Purpose;

The purpose of MIH's Animal Assisted Activities and Animal Care Programmes are to offer the children and young persons a safe and welcoming environment involving calming animal activities to assist in their well-being, development and learning opportunities. Whether this be through MIH's own animal activities or through other independent groups working in partnership with MIH.

The Multiple Intelligence Hub has developed an infection control policy which details the precautions and controls to implement when hosting an Animal Assisted Activity, or when delivering an Animal Care Programme. A designated person should carry out an assessment with any participants involved in animal interaction and then ensure the safe management of both the animal and participant. Once the assessment is completed and agreed between all necessary parties, guidance and a brief overview of the activity and any Health & safety requirements should be given.

Aims;

An Assisted Animal Activity or Animal care Programme aims to;

- Increase the general comfort of the participant
- Gently encourage the participant to engage, allowing them to focus on a positive and nurturing activity
- Assist the participant in focusing on an outside source
- Provide unique and calming learning experiences

Organisation Protocols:

1. All animals at MIH should receive a health evaluation through a licensed veterinarian before being introduced into one of our Assisted Activities or programmes. Records of such are kept on site at MIH.
2. A risk assessment must be completed for all animal activities and programmes.
3. All MIH Staff and service users who will come into contact with animals must be given information and instruction on hand hygiene, safe animal handling and how to manage infection risks.
4. All MIH Staff and service users who come into contact with an animal must wash their hands before eating, drinking, smoking, using the telephone, taking medication etc.
5. All MIH Staff and service users who will come into contact with an animal must be advised to avoid hand-mouth or hand-eye contact and not to put pens/pencils in mouths.
6. All MIH Staff and service users must be advised to wash hands with soap and running water after touching animals, their enclosures or food containers, after being licked or bitten by an animal. After any contact with soil, bedding, urine, faeces or animal feed in an animal contact area.
7. The area should maintain a first-aid kit in case of scratching or biting.
8. All MIH Staff and service users who will come into contact with an animal must cover all new and existing cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings and/or gloves.
9. MIH staff in charge of Animal care and delivery of programmes should ensure that they carry out regular cleaning and disinfection, and dispose of all animal waste safely.
10. Animals must be monitored and managed by MIH Staff to ensure that service users and employees with whom they come into contact remain safe.
11. MIH Infection Control Plans and Checklist should be followed at all times.

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