

IGPG1 INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES SECTION 10: PETS AND PESTS

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PROCEDURE SUMMARY	
The purpose of this document is to ensure that every member of staff understands their individual responsibility caring for pets and pests to prevent infection transmission from pets to service users.	
The Trust monitors the implementation of and compliance with this procedure in the following ways;	
The responsibility for monitoring and reviewing this Policy lies with the Director of Infection Prevention and Control (DIPC). Compliance with this procedure will be audited annually as part of Environmental audits. Audit results will be presented to the Infection Prevention and Control Group.	

Services	Applicable	Comments
Trustwide	✓	

**The Director responsible for monitoring and reviewing this procedure is
Director for Infection Prevention and Control**

PETS AND PESTS

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SAMPLE ONLY

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PETS AND PESTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This guideline supports the Trust Policy on Infection Control by setting out the procedures for staff to follow for pets and pests.

2.0 PESTS

- 2.1 Pests may be found in any property but sensible precautions will reduce any infection risk from pests to clients and staff.
- 2.2 Pests include:
- Insects** - ants, flies, cockroaches, fleas, silverfish.
 - Rodents** - rats and mice.
 - Birds** - for example pigeons, sparrows etc.
 - Animals** - **Feral** cats and foxes
- 2.3 Kitchen and food stores provide ideal conditions for pests. Not only do they eat the food but they could contaminate and spoil the food.
- 2.4 Control measures should include the following:
- Stop pests getting in by fitting fly screens, insectocutors, well-fitting doors with threshold brushes, covered drains and bird netting.
 - Clean up any spillage and decaying food immediately. Carry out regular inspection and rotate any stock. Use rodent-proof containers with well-fitting lids to store food. Store food off the ground.
 - Look out for droppings, nests, chew-marks on wood or cables, holes in walls / cupboards etc. where pests could access. –and do what if found?
 - Discard any foodstuffs or other articles affected by pests.
 - Rubbish should be kept in bins (both internal and external waste) with lids that fit well. Rubbish should not be allowed to accumulate on the floor. External waste areas should be kept tidy and clean.
 - If any pests are found on Trust property, the Facilities Department should be contacted for pest control measures.
 - A pest control contract is in place and this can be accessed by contacting the Facilities Department
 - Unit managers are responsible for addressing any points raised on their pest control service reports.

- 2.5 Community Staff – if an infestation is noticed within a patient's home, this can be reported to the Local Authority / Pest Control Department.

3.0 PETS

- 3.1 Pets can often enhance the quality of life for the ageing and the ill. A resident may catch an infection from a pet. Sensible precautions can reduce this risk to an acceptable level.
- 3.2 The Senior Manager should ensure that a named, knowledgeable person is responsible for the animal. There should be a written agreement within the establishment to ensure full understanding of:
- the types of animals allowed for the purposes of "pet therapy". Only mature house trained pets are acceptable
 - responsibility for their control and permitted behaviour whilst on the premises
 - the routes for entry to and passage through the premises
 - the areas where pets are not allowed i.e. in food preparation or eating areas
 - any insurance liability of owners and handlers
- 3.3 All animals should be regularly groomed by the owners or staff and checked for signs of infection or other illness. If pets become ill, diagnosis and treatment by a vet should be sought. All animals should have received relevant inoculations. Dogs and cats should be wormed every six months and the owner should be able to provide evidence of this.
- 3.4 Hands should be washed following any contact with animals.
- 3.5 Pets should not be fed in the kitchen or other food preparation areas and their dishes and utensils should be washed separately to other household articles.
- 3.6 Once opened, pet food containers should be kept separate from food for human consumption.
- 3.7 Pet food not consumed in 20 minutes should be taken away or covered to prevent attracting pests.

4.0 LITTER BOX CARE

- 4.1 Always have someone who is not known to be pregnant and who is healthy, clean the litter box.
- 4.2 Always wear a protective apron and gloves when cleaning the litter box and wash hands in soap and water after handling the litter tray
- 4.3 Fit a disposable liner to the box for easy cleaning.
- 4.4 Litter should be changed daily, or sooner if required.
- 4.5 Litter should be sealed in a plastic bag and disposed of as offensive waste and not in the general waste stream.
- 4.6 The litter box should not be sited near food preparation, storage or eating areas.
- 4.7 The litter box should be disinfected weekly by being filled with boiling water which is allowed to stand for at least 5 minutes in order to kill toxoplasmosis eggs and other germs.

5.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 5.1 The responsibility for monitoring and reviewing this Procedural Guideline shall be with the Director of Infection Prevention and Control.

6.0 REFERENCES

Wilson J. 2001 Infection Control in Clinical Practice. 2nd Edition Bailliere Tindall London

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