Pets in Family Child Care Settings

Pets can be an important and memorable part of your family child care program. It is important to think carefully about how to keep the pets and the children safe. Some pets present a danger to children and providers. Use these Inspection Standards for pets to guide your choices.

- Facility based pets maintained on a permanent basis are inspected by Veterinary Services or qualified designee on a monthly basis with the exception of fish and fish tanks.

- Pets are contained in appropriate cages/enclosures/areas when not included in an activity.

- Sanitary conditions of pets are maintained and monitored.

- Parents are notified at registration if animals are in the facility or any time a new animal is added to the program.

- Pets bred or trained for attack and pets known as dangerous (predators, venomous reptiles and spiders) are prohibited. For health reasons, the following are not in programs: wolf-dog hybrids; reptiles and amphibians; psittacine birds (inclusive of parrots, parakeets, budgies, and cockatiels); ferrets. NOTE: Tadpoles can be in programs for science observations but once become frogs should not remain.