Pets and other animals' policy

I believe that children can learn a lot from having contact with animals, however certain procedures will be followed to ensure the safety of the children. In my setting, I have a pet, a dog called Nina.

Pet Procedure

Children will be encouraged to treat animals with respect, learn how to behave around them and how to handle them carefully.
Although my pet is friendly, there will always be a risk of them getting upset if a child mishandles them. I will always closely supervise children when around my pet, with the aim of avoiding any biting/scratching, but please be aware that this risk cannot be completely removed.
Children will wash their hands after any contact with animals and understand the reasoning behind this.
Food for pets will be stored safely away from the children's reach.
A high standard of hygiene will be in place, with careful thought given to the placing of the feeding and drink bowls of dogs and cats.
My garden will be checked every morning, before the children are permitted outside to play, to ensure that no animal has fouled it.
If your child has an allergy to any pet or other animal, please notify me and we can discuss whether it will be possible for them to safely attend the setting without coming into contact with the animal or its hair/fur, etc.

Other Animals

Children will be taught that not all animals are friendly and that they should always check with the animal's owner before attempting to stroke or handle them. They will also be taught not to touch dogs if they approach them when out and about, even if they appear to be friendly, without first checking with their owner.
If your child has a fear of any animal, please let me know so we can be sensitive to this if we are near any of these animals and try to avoid them if that is possible.
Children will be taught to respect all living creatures, no matter how big or small. We will observe and care for nature in outdoor spaces, being careful not to hurt any wildlife or disturb their habitats.

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