



## PET REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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Pets are limited to dogs, cats, fish, guinea pigs, gerbils, rabbits, hamsters, rats, mice, and birds. If you want to have a pet other than those listed above, contact your licenser to see if you have the option to request a variance. All pets housed within a child care home must be maintained in good health and up to date on their vaccinations. If you have a bird with a hook bill, i.e., parakeet, lovebird, cockatoo, cockatiel, parrot, or macaw, you must have verification on file that your bird or birds are free of chlamydia psittaci.

**Reptiles are not allowed in child care homes.** This includes turtles, lizards (such as chameleons and iguanas), snakes, alligators/crocodiles, geckos, etc. Hermit crabs and frogs are not considered reptiles; however, they are not recommended as pets to have in a child care setting due to the risk of salmonella.

### **Providers must:**

- Notify parents prior to admission of the presence of pets in their home
- Directly supervise children when handling an animal
- Children should wash hands after handling an animal
- Provide verification that rabies shots and tags are current for dogs and cats
- Clean and keep pet cages away from any food preparation, storage, or serving areas
- Ensure that the play areas are free of animal excrement
- Notify parents if their child's skin is broken by an animal bite or scratch immediately
- Notify an agent of the Board of Health (9-1-1) as authorized under Minnesota Statute, Section 145A.04 immediately if a child in care is bitten by an animal. This notification needs to be given before any steps are taken to destroy the animal, and reasonable steps to confine the animal shall be taken.