

## Guidance on Pets (including Dangerous Dogs)



### Introduction

The Children's Family Trust are committed to the welfare of children and therefore will perform all the necessary checks to make a child as safe as possible.

Where a foster family has a pet in the home, a risk assessment will be carried out to assess whether this pet is a risk to a child and also to gather some information on the animal's background. This information is included on the Foster Carer's profile.

### Pet Risk Assessments

You will find a copy of our Pet Risk Assessment Form included as part of the Foster Carer Handbook.

If you have a pet before you are approved as a Foster Carer, a risk assessment will be carried out on the animal during the assessment process. A risk assessment will also be carried out if you acquire a new animal once you are approved as a Foster Carer.

Each animal will need its own Risk Assessment and this will be updated each year at your Annual Review or if there are any significant changes regarding your pet.

If you are wanting to purchase/obtain a new pet whilst a child is placed, you will be required to discuss this with your SSW PRIOR to purchasing or bringing the new pet into the home. That way we can assess the safety of the pet in terms of child safety.

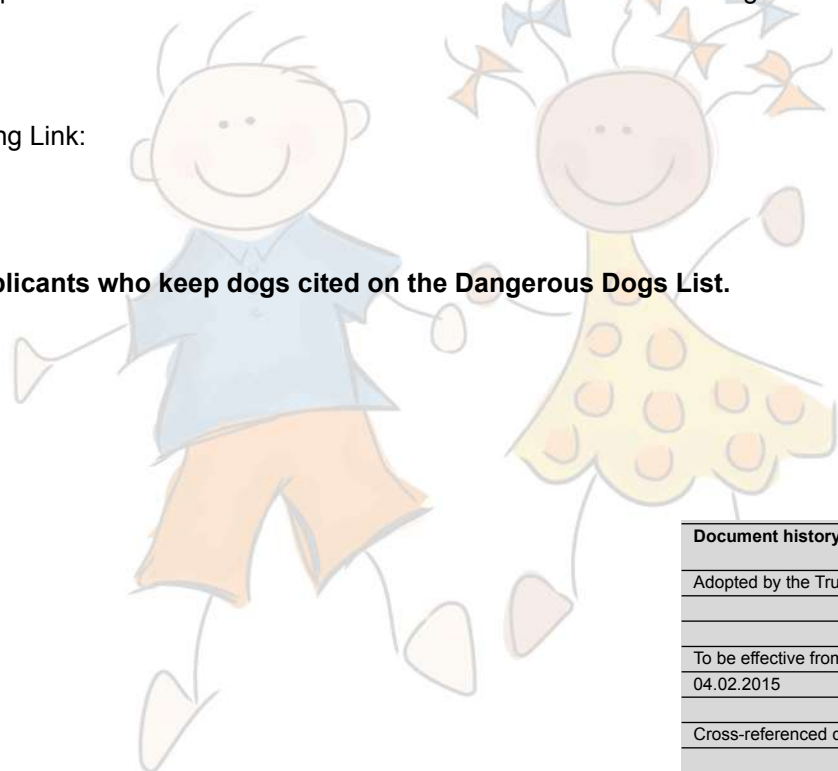
In almost all cases this is not a problem and for the most foster children thrive in homes where families have pets. However if we believed the animal to be a risk to children we would advise you NOT to bring the pet into the home whilst children are in place. If we are unsure about this we would seek advice and guidance from a qualified Vet.

### Dangerous Dogs Index:

This can be accessed via the following Link:

[dogsindex@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:dogsindex@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

**The Trust will not approve any applicants who keep dogs cited on the Dangerous Dogs List.**



| Document history                                     |
|--|
| Adopted by the Trustees on:                          |
| To be effective from:<br>04.02.2015                  |
| Cross-referenced documents:                          |
| Policy review responsibility:<br>The Chief Executive |
| Reviewed: 24.11.2015                                 |