Pet Policy

We believe that children can learn a lot from having contact with animals and as you know we own a dog and rabbits, however certain procedures must be followed to ensure the safety of the children;

Children must be encouraged to treat all animals with respect, learning how to handle them correctly. They will be taught to handle the dog gently if they have contact. This is unlikely unless they are on an all year-round contract, or the dog uses the toilet or gets a drink (normally only when it’s hot) though they will see him over the stairgate sometimes. They will be taught not to put their fingers into the rabbit’s hutch.  
Children must wash their hands after any contact with animals and understand the reasoning behind this.   
Children must be taught that not all animals are child friendly and that they should always check with the animal's owner before attempting to stroke or handle them.   
The dog food is stored safely away from the children.   
A high standard of hygiene is followed, with careful thought given to the placing of the feeding and drink bowls so children don’t have access to them.   
The garden is checked every morning before the children are permitted outside to play, to ensure that no animal has fouled it. If an animal has fouled in the garden it is removed using a bag, binned and the area is rinsed and sprayed with disinfectant. The dog has his own separate toilet area that is checked and emptied each morning and is regularly watered down and bleached. We continually monitor the dog and do not allow him alone with children.   
As you may be aware the dog is a barker on occasion, we will work with children so they understand this is excitement and is not a scary (if loud) noise and show them his tail wagging. The dog is used to being locked upstairs with his bed and water so the children may not hear him if he alerts us to the door. The pets are risk assessed formally and continuously informally.

The children will be allowed to handle the rabbits on occasion and help with feeding and changing them out. Whilst children will not take out any dirty bedding they are welcome to help put the clean bedding in.

The fish tank is regularly cleaned and children are monitored when near is and asked to be gentle so they don’t knock it. They are also promoted to keep their feet on the floor near it and are never shown it open to reduce the risk of climbing and drowning.