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PEST CONTROL		

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide information on pests, associated risks and control options in our home. The presence of pests in premises used for social care can lead to a considerable risk to public health. The risks posed by pests include:

The spread of disease or pathogens are transferred from the gut or external surface of the pest

- Allergies
- Bites
- Psycho/social stresses
- Damage to property
- Contamination of work surfaces and foodstuffs
- Prosecution and closure

The risks presented by pests in this sector are particularly important as the susceptibility to infection by many of those at risk is greater due to their existing medical condition.

Resident's own food in their rooms provide a ready source of attractive substances such as juice concentrates around the base of bottles, fruit and biscuits.

Kitchens and food stores provide ideal conditions for pests. Not only do they eat the food but they contaminate and spoil a lot more; and rodents damage the fabric of buildings from the woodwork to electric cables.

The Policy

A Manager takes on the role of Pest Monitoring Officer and liaises with an Environmental Health Officer from the local authority or a reputable commercial pest control company as required.

Their role is to ensure that:

- regular inspections take place of the kitchen and any areas where food is served or stored
- any food stock is rotated
- rodent-proof containers with well-fitting lids are used
- food is stored off the ground

- spillages and decaying food is cleaned up immediately
- leftovers are not put out for birds because it will encourage pests
- the Pest Control Policy is up to date and followed

Control measures to stop pests entering the home should include the following:

- Well-fitting doors throughout
- covered drains
- No broken areas of concrete or brick work
- fly screens or consider the use of a properly installed electric flying-insect killer
- bird-netting
- look out for evidence of the presence of pests – droppings, nests, chew-marks on wood or cables in the case of rodents; or, for insects, droppings, egg cases, vomit marks, damaged food containers, webbing caused by moths or the presence of the live insects themselves
- discard items affected by pests, including milk from bottles whose tops have been pecked by birds
- use a waste-disposal unit to get rid of left-overs rather than relying on a waste food collector
- a waste compactor may also be considered
- use plastic wheelie bins for all waste as these can be easily cleaned
- regular visual monitoring of the fabric of the building, both inside and outside areas
- identified defects to be recorded and reported so that necessary repairs can be carried out
- health and safety audits are carried out regularly to help identify potential risks of pests infestations
- A Pets Policy is in place and followed to ensure all pets do not bring pests into the home
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Examples of types of Pests

Ants

There are two main types of ants, the black or garden ant and the pharaoh's ant. Ants prefer to eat protein-rich foods, such as meat and cheese, as well as fats, sugar and chocolate.

Pharaoh's ants are yellow-brown in colour and very small, usually around 2 mm in length. Nests are located within the fabric of buildings, along heating ducts and in wall cavities.

Pharaoh's ants feed on variety of foods and also gnaw holes in material goods. These ants are capable of transmitting diseases and contaminating sterile materials with organisms such as staphylococci.

Treatment: garden ants require insecticidal treatment to destroy their trails, but tropical ants, like Pharaoh's ants, need to be treated by baiting so that nests can be destroyed.

Cockroaches

There are many different kinds of cockroach. Some of the more common types that occur in the UK include the common cockroach, German cockroach, brown-banded cockroach, American cockroach and Australian cockroach. Cockroaches can harm business reputations, within the food industry. The brown-banded cockroach is often found in client premises. The adult cockroaches are quite small, usually around 10–15 mm long, and yellowish-brown colour, with dark hoops around their body. The German cockroach is often found in kitchens and laundries, hence its common name, the 'steam fly'. The adult cockroaches are small, usually around 10–15 mm long, and are again yellowish-brown in colour but with two dark longitudinal marks or stripes.

Treatment: infestations can be very deep-seated within buildings and need regular and thorough treatment to control them. This does vary depending on the type of cockroach.

Mice

The house mouse is a very common pest of buildings. Field mice and other less common rodents are not usually found in houses, but may cause infestations occasionally. Identification of droppings confirms mice are present. They also cause damage to foodstuffs, chew wrappers and cause holes in materials.

Treatment: mice can be controlled using a combination of rodenticidal baits and proofing.

Rats

The most common species of rat found in the UK is the brown rat. There is also the black rat, which is much less common and is usually found in a few port areas. Rats tend to be a problem as they are destructive and transmit many infections such as Weil's disease.

Treatment: eradication may be possible using a combination of rodenticide baits and proofing.

Related Policies

Health and Safety, Food Hygiene, Infection Control
Pets, Premises, general, welfare and environmental

Training Statement

All staff receive food hygiene and infection control training relevant to their role.

