

ANIMALS ON PREMISES POLICY

Aims

- To provide all people on the school premises a safe, comfortable environment.
- To provide the opportunity for classrooms to involve and incorporate animals within the curriculum.
- To facilitate support for guide, hearing or assistance animals.

Rationale

Well cared for animals have many benefits for students, but need to be properly managed to ensure the benefits for the children are complemented by a safe, comfortable and secure environment for the animals and people involved.

Implementation

- Any animals brought onto the school premises must be approved by the Principal prior to the animal being brought onto the premises.
- Animals are not permitted to be on school grounds during the start and end of the school day, due to increased movement of people this can create many risks for both animals and people.
- Any animals brought onto the school premises must be securely maintained at all times.
- A guide, hearing or assistance animals is specially trained to perform specific physical tasks and behaviours to assist a person with a disability and reduce their need for support.
- Whether as an ongoing or occasional visitor classroom animals must meet all relevant guidelines and follow regulatory requirements.
- Issues relating to allergies must be considered when choosing incorporating a visiting animals.
- The school will not purchase animals, and the responsible staff member must provide a viable long-term plan for any costs associated with the animal brought to the school as a classroom pet.
- Guest speakers demonstrating good animal care, hygiene and safety practices will be welcomed to the school.
- Pets that die have a profound effect on some children. Therefore, the death of classroom pets will be managed in a caring manner. The death of a classroom pet will be discussed openly with students in a manner consistent with their age and understanding, as a natural part of the life cycle of all living things.
- Any class wishing to incorporate a living animal into their room must provide a comprehensive plan to the Principal for approval (which demonstrates that the class has appropriately considered essential issues such as feeding, housing, costs, cleaning, vet care, school vacation periods, etc) prior to the introduction of any animal into the room. All Departmental guidelines and procedures must be adhered to at all times. This also applies to occasional visitor animals. Their plans must include dates and times of visits, provision for placement during break times and before and after school.

- Communication with the school community about the presence of animals on the premises will be done so as deemed necessary by the principal.

Related Documents

Care and Use of Animals in Schools

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/curriculum/pages/animals.aspx?Redirect=1>

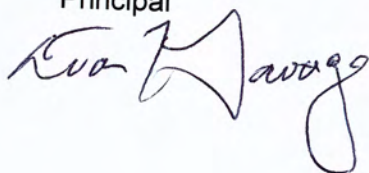
Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Certification

This policy was endorsed by school council at the meeting held on 6th December 2016.

Principal



School Council President



6-12-16

