



Management of Animals

Policy Statement

This policy acts to ensure that:

- The opportunity for children to engage with animals offers enjoyment and stimulation
- Educators will role model appropriate behaviours with animals, and guidance in caring for the needs of animals to children
- The service supports children to understand and appreciate the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land

Goals

- Provide a clean, safe and humane environment for all animals and birds that visit the service
- Ensure that the health and wellbeing of children is being maintained when engaged with animals
- Ensure pest control measures are regularly taken
- Ensure there are procedures in place for removing unwanted animals, pests and vermin from the premises

Strategies

Invited Visitors

Prior to a visit by animals, the service will:

- Consult families
- Complete a Risk Assessment
- Ensure children are supervised at all times when interacting with animals
- Ensure educators manage any health and safety risk for the children that may be caused by the animals such as asthma or allergies
- Animals and birds visiting the service as part of the educational program are the responsibility of the owner
- Educators will ensure that the environment remains safe and hygienic at all times during animals visiting the service
- Educate children about “safe behaviour” with animals
- Designate a specific area for the animals
- Ensure animals are kept in enclosures or under appropriate restraints

Policy Created
February 2016

Policy Last Updated
July 2021

Policy Review Date
January 2023



Animals and Birds Other than Invited Visitors

- There are situations that may spontaneously occur, involving animals. For example an animal or bird may make its way into the service. Educators may use this as a spontaneous learning experience, and ensure that at all times the safety and wellbeing of the children is met
- If an animal or bird is potentially dangerous, such as a snake or spider educators will contact the appropriate authority for assistance – this information for each service is located in their Regulation 97.2 Risk Assessments
- The animals' movements should be monitored to ensure a speedy and efficient capture by a professional, but the priority is the safety of educators, children and families

Pests & Vermin

- Pest control is the responsibility of the school or landlord, and any occurrences within the service will be reported
- If any pest or vermin are seen educators will notify the Nominated Supervisor
- Where appropriate, educators will discuss with children safety issues in relation to dangerous products, plants, vermin and objects
- Educators will thoroughly clean any areas that animals or pests have accessed in the service with hot soapy water
- Educators are responsible for assessing any situation in the service where animals are involved to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children, families and animals

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider /Nominated Supervisor

- Support Coordinators and Educators with training and resources on health and safety practices for animals

Educators

- Inform families of their procedures relating to animals and children in care
- Children who have a fear of animals should be treated with special care, ensuring a slow and gentle introduction
- Ensure children and educators wash their hands immediately after handling animals
- Ensure direct supervision is always in place, and no child can access the animals without an educator

LINKS TO:

- Education & Care Services National Regulations: 103, 168
- National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 3.2



Families

- Inform the service if their child has any allergies to animals
- Inform the service if their child has any fears around specific animals

Continual Monitoring and Improvement

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Approved Provider and Co-ordination Unit Staff accessing current relevant information
- Approved Provider, Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

SOURCES

Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2020

Education and care Services National Law, February 2018

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017

Guide to the National Quality Standard, January 2020

Kidsafe NSW Inc – www.kidsafensw.org

NSW Department of Health –

www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/factsheets/Pages/petting-zoos-and-personal-hygiene.aspx

Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th Edition

ACECQA – Keeping Pets and Animals in Education and Care Services Factsheet

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

- Child Protection
- Child-Safe Environment
- Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness
- Interactions with Children
- Emergency & Evacuation
- Supervision