

D-7 Animals

NQS

QA. 1.1	An approved learning framework informs the development of a curriculum that enhances each child's learning and development.
QA. 2.1	Each child's health is promoted.
QA. 2.1.3	Effective hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
QA. 2.1.4	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.
QA. 2.3	Each child is protected.
QA. 2.3.1	Children are adequately supervised at all times.
QA. 2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.
QA. 2.3.3	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.
QA. 4.1	Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development and ensure their safety and wellbeing.
QA. 7.3.5	Service practices are based on effectively documented policies and procedures that are available at the service and reviewed regularly.

National Regulations

Reg. 77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children feel safe, secure and supported
	Children develop their autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
	Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect
LO. 2	Children are connected with and contribute to their world
LO. 3	Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing
LO. 4	Children develop dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

Policy Statement

Although animals are not a necessary part of the program, we believe that animals can be a valuable source of learning and enjoyment for the children. Any animals that enter the Centre must be safe and present no danger to the children in any way. Educators will ensure that everyone in the Centre treats the animals with respect and in a humane way, at all times. Strict supervision will be maintained and appropriate hygiene practices will be implemented.

Related Policies

- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy A-15: Role of Management Committee
- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy D-2: Hygiene
- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy D-9: Emergency Procedures
- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy D-15: Allergies
- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy E-2: Written Program

Procedure

The decision to keep a pet or have an animal visit the Centre will be made by the Nominated Supervisor, based on an observed need or value to the children. Animals may be incorporated as part of the educational program.

The Nominated Supervisor must discuss this in their report at a management meeting and have approval of the management committee prior to any animal being able to enter the Centre.

Considerations regarding individual children's allergies will be taken into account before bringing an animal into the Centre.

All animals which are kept in the Centre shall be maintained in a clean and healthy condition. Appropriate food and water will be replenished and maintained at all times.

An educator will be designated the duty of ensuring that the animal is appropriately fed and looked after. Alternatively, a roster of staff and children can be made to fulfil this duty. Appropriate arrangements shall be made to ensure the animal is appropriately cared for over weekend and holiday breaks.

Children will be educated on an ongoing basis on how to properly care for and handle animals. Everyone in the Centre will treat with respect and in a humane way all animals, at all times.

Children will be reminded about the hygiene practices required after handling any animal and educators will ensure that this is maintained (see D-2 Hygiene Policy). All appropriate hygiene procedures will be followed regarding cleaning and disposal of waste. Animals will be located away from any food or food preparation areas.

Any animal or bird will only be considered with the clear understanding of them being safe and suitable with children, and an assurance that the animal will be properly cared for.

No animal, bird or livestock will be allowed in the program area which is likely to be a source of infection or which in any way may be detrimental to the wellbeing of the children.

Supervision is to be maintained at all times when animals are present around children.

Unknown or Nuisance Animals on the Premises

No animals should be on the premises (as per Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act (1998)) without the authority of the Nominated Supervisor or Management Committee.

Occasionally animals, such as stray dogs, may enter the premises. Children will be made aware of the importance of staying away from animals unknown to them.

In the event that an animal unknown to the Centre is on the premises the staff will ensure that the children are moved as far away from the animal as possible.

If educators feel the animal has become a threat to the children, the following will be observed
(see D-9 Emergency Procedures Policy – *Nuisance Animals*):

- Direct the children to quietly and calmly leave the playground or other affected area and calmly move them inside the building (if not affected)
- Close all doors and open windows if the children are inside
- Sudden screaming or shouting will frighten a larger animal and it may scatter in the direction of the children
- In the case of snakes, which are deaf, children will be encouraged to remain still and make no sudden movements
- Report to pest exterminator, local council or other appropriate body for treatment

Sources

- Educational and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- My Time, Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
- Companion Animals Act (1998)

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