



## Animal Policy (CHS 16)

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### Policy Rationale

Educators are “encouraged to foster children’s capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.” (NQS element 3.2)

Responsible ownership of pets that may reside at our Preschool, or visit the premises is vital. Role models of appropriate behaviours with animals and guidance in caring for the needs of animals is beneficial for children. This policy also considers the management of unwanted visitors such as pests and vermin

### Strategies, Practices and Procedures

We have based our strategies on those outlined by Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW).

#### *Centre Pets and Invited Visitors*

- Educators will ensure that all pets and their enclosures are kept clean and hygienic.
- Educators must ensure they have clean bedding and water. Food is available for the pet, but kept out of reach of children at all times.
- Children must be supervised at all times when interacting with pets or animals. Educators will manage any health or safety risk for the children that may be caused by animals, such as asthma and allergies.
- Pets will not have access to children’s bedding, toys, food preparation areas, eating surfaces or utensils.

- Animals and birds visiting the Preschool as part of the educational program are the responsibility of the owner(s). The educators will ensure that the environment remains safe and hygienic at all times during the visit. Educators will complete risk assessment paperwork in relation to the visit.

### *Animals and Birds Other than Pets or Invited Visitors*

- There are situations that may spontaneously occur, involving animals. For example, there may be a situation where an animal or bird has made its way into the Preschool. Educators may use this as a spontaneous learning experience for the children. At all times they will ensure the safety and well being of the children.
- If an animal or bird is potentially dangerous; such as a snake or spider, educators will contact an appropriate authority for assistance. In NSW this authority is the *National Parks and Wildlife Service* - **1300 361 967** (8.30am – 5.00pm) or *NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc* on **13 000 WIRES - 13 00 094 737**.
- The animal's movements should be monitored to ensure a speedy and efficient capture by a professional, but priority is to be given to educator, child and family safety. At no time is the potentially dangerous animal, insect or bird to be approached or touched by educators, children or families.

### *Pests and Vermin*

- Pest control will occur at the Preschool on an annual basis. Educators will monitor any occurrences in the service to determine the success of control measures.
- If pests and vermin are seen, educators will advise the nominated supervisor. The approved provider is responsible for arranging additional pest control visits.
- Where appropriate, educators discuss with children safety issues relating to dangerous products, plants, vermin and objects.
- Educators will thoroughly clean all areas that animals or pests have accessed in the Preschool with hot, soapy water. If the remains of an animal or animal faeces have been found, the remains will be disposed of according to the local Council guidelines and the area where the remains were found will be thoroughly disinfected with hot, soapy water.
- Educators will be responsible for assessing any situation in the Preschool where animals are involved to ensure the health, safety and well-being of children, families and animals.

#### Links to Legislation & National Quality Standards

- The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 77
- Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA (2011): 2.1.2, 2.1.3

#### Links to other Policies & Documents

- Child Safe Environment (PE 2)
- Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness (CHS 8)
- Medical Conditions Policy (CHS 11)
- Infection Control Policy (CHS 6)
- Interactions with Children Policy (RC 1)

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