

Animals

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 Service must be safe and any risks associated with the animal appropriately mitigated. Educators will ensure that everyone in the Service will treat animals with respect and in a humane way. Strict supervision will be maintained.

Policy Considerations

- National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.2 (Safety), 3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible)
- Animal Rights

Procedure

- The decision to have an animal visit the Service will be made by the Coordinator, based on an observed need or value to the children.
- Health and safety of children at the service will be considered before any animal or bird is brought into the service.
- The animal must be properly cared for by its handler at all times while on Service premises.
- No animal, bird or livestock will be allowed in the Service area which is likely to be a source of infection or which in any way may be detrimental to the wellbeing of the children.
- Checks need to be made regarding individual children's allergies before considering an animal in the Service.
- Children will be encouraged to wash hands before and after handling animals of any kind.

Dangerous or unwelcome animals

- If a dangerous animal is in the vicinity of the service a lockdown procedure should be initiated with all children moved inside away from the animal. The relevant agency should be contacted to deal with the animal, for example Domestic Animal Services or a snake handler.
- Children should be kept calm and not run or make sudden movements near the animal.
- Educators shall secure doors to keep animal outside
- In the event that the animal is inside the building, children are to be moved to a safe area.

Document Version Control

Version Date	Changes
05/12/2018	Full review
27/08/2019	Document version history added
23/06/2020	Full review
22/02/2023	Full review. Added dangerous or unwelcome animals.

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