

## ▲ ANIMALS

### ▲ NQS

**Element 2.2.1** At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

**Education and Care Services National Regulations:** 168 (2) (h).

### ▲ PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out the correct processes to be followed where animals are cared for at the centre.

### ▲ POLICY

It is the policy of the centre that animals may be cared for as part of an educational or programmed activity. Animals must be kept in an environment supportive of their needs and handled and cared for in a manner which is safe and does not cause the animal or children undue stress, fear or anxiety. The centre will consider the individual needs of all children, in particular those children with known allergies, before incorporating animals into the program. Animals cannot remain at the centre for long periods without appropriate care or feeding. Large animals may visit the centre as part of a controlled and approved educational or programmed activity.

### ▲ PROCEDURES

#### *1. Animals living at the centre*

The following animals may live at the centre to promote educational or programmed activities:

- Fish
- Hermit crabs
- Stick insects
- other with prior approval of the Managing Director.

Animals must be cared for humanely in a safe and suitable environment. Animals and their waste may contain bacteria and viruses. The following measures will be implemented to minimise health risks:

- The environment the animals are maintained in will be cleaned regularly.
- Gloves will be worn when cleaning cages, tanks, or other environments.

- Children will not be permitted to assist with the cleaning of the animal's environment and,
- Children will be encouraged not to put their faces too close to animals.

Children will be always supervised when in contact with animals. Children and educators are required to wash their hands thoroughly after handling or petting any animal.

## **II. Children visiting animals / Animals visiting the centre**

Parents/guardians are required to give written consent for their child participating in petting zoo visits or other controlled or approved animal visiting programs.

## **III. Animals and hygiene**

Diseases can be spread from animals to people. It is essential to ensure that good hygiene practices are maintained (such as hand washing routines). Educators will encourage children to follow basic hygiene practices including:

- Not using hands to touch their mouth or face after having immediate contact with an animal.
- Not eating food intended for animals and,
- covering open wounds.

## **▲ SOURCES AND FURTHER READING**

- Children Education and Care Services National Law Application Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Early Years Learning Framework

## **▲ ASSOCIATED POLICIES**

- Educational Programs
- Gloves
- Infection control
- Toileting and Hand washing

## **▲ POLICY REVIEW**

- The Centre (together with educators) will review this policy every 12 months.
- The Approved Provider and Centre Director ensure that at all times all educators maintain and implement this policy and its procedures.

- Families are encouraged to collaborate with the Centre to review the policy and procedures.
- **Last review:** 27.06.2023
- **Next review:**27.06.2024