

D-7 Animals

NQS

QA. 1.1.1	Approved learning framework.
QA 1.2	Practice.
QA 1.2.1	Intentional Teaching.
QA. 2.1	Health.
QA. 2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort.
QA. 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures.
QA. 2.2	Safety.
QA. 2.2.1	Supervision.
QA 3.1	Design.
QA 3.1.2	Upkeep.
QA. 4.1	Staffing arrangements.
QA. 4.1.1	Organisation of educators.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems

National Regulations

s165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
s167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
Reg. 77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg. 109	Toilet and hygiene facilities
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
Reg. 177	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider

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 housed appropriately to minimise the risk of danger to the children. 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 to ensure the health and safety of children and educators

Related Policies

- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy A-15: Role of Management Committee
- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy D-9: Emergency Procedures
- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy D-15: Allergies
- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy E-2: Written Program
- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy D-11: Management of Incident, Injury and Trauma
- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy D-13 Illness and Infectious diseases
- NORMANHURST WEST OSHC Policy D-10 First aid

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.

Should the addition of an animal be a permanent addition to the service, the Nominated Supervisor must discuss this in their report at a management meeting and have approval of the management committee. An appropriate risk assessment and associated risk benefit analysis should be completed as part of the process, and must include sections relating to the risk of bites, scratches and infection from fecal matter.

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, and appropriate housing or restraints will be used and regularly maintained.

An educator will be designated the duty of ensuring that the animal is appropriately fed, housed and looked after each session.. 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 (i.e. thorough hand washing) after handling any animal or coming into contact with animal products, feed or animal environments 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, and cleaning of cages etc will not take place in any 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, and veterinary treatment sought for the animal where required.

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.

Direct 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 snake or larger animal and it may scatter in the direction of the children
- 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)
- Staying Healthy in childcare 5th edition (2013)

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