

4.7 Keeping of Animals Policy

Policy Statement

The service recognises and acknowledges the role that animals play in the lives of children, therefore animals cared for by the service will be in keeping with any regulated requirements with adequate shelter provided. Wildlife and stray animals will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Procedures

The Coordinator will ensure that any animal, which poses an unacceptable health or safety risk to any child in the service is safely isolated or removed immediately.

Hand washing and hygiene procedures will be followed after the handling of all animals, whether it is the service animal or a stray.

No animals will be permitted in or accommodated near food preparation areas.

Keeping of animals

The service will only keep animals:

- Where they are appropriate to the program of the service
- If no children and/or educators are allergic to that type of animal
- If permitted by local authority regulations, and
- If the service has sufficient and suitable space for the keeping of the animal.

Animals cared for by the service will have sufficient food, water, air, bedding and shelter.

Under the supervision of educators, children will be encouraged to help with the feeding and watering of service animals. Depending on the animal, families and educators may be encouraged to take care of it at home over periods of long weekends and/or service closures.

Stray animals

In the case of a stray domestic animal (e.g. dog or cat), educators will appropriately remove and/or restrain it (if safe to do so). Attempts will be made to contact the owners of the animal (if known) or local authorities for collection.

Stray animals will be restrained in an area away from the children and provided with adequate water.

Wildlife

In the case of a wild animal (e.g. snake, possum, bird), educators will monitor the whereabouts of the animal to ensure it doesn't pose a risk to children and others. Local wildlife authorities will be contacted for further advice and assistance.

Service evacuation and/or lockdown procedures may be implemented if the wild animal (e.g. snake, possum) is inside the SAC building or in an area that poses a risk to children and others.

References

- Duty of Care
- Check local authority regulations, e.g. Brisbane City Council by-laws on keeping relevant animals
- NQS Area: 2.1.3, 2.1.4; 2.3.1, 2.3.2; 3.1.1; 6.1.2; 6.2.1; 7.3.5.
- Policies: 4.1 - General Health and Safety, 4.2 - Infectious Diseases, 4.3 - Hygiene, 4.4 - Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 9.3 – Communication with Families.

Date of Development	Reason for Modification	Date Ratified	Date of Review