

D-7 Animals

Epping Heights OSHC.

NQS

QA. 1.1.1	Approved learning framework.
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. 4.1	Staffing arrangements.
QA. 4.1.1	Organisation of educators.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.

National Regulations

Reg. 77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children and young people feel safe, secure and supported
	Children and young people develop their autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
	Children and young people learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect
LO. 2	Children and young people are connected with and contribute to their world
LO. 3	Children and young people are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety
LO. 4	Children and young people develop a growth mindset and learning 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 brought into the Centre for education and stimulation purposes, must be safe and present no danger to the children in any way. Educators will ensure that everyone in the Centre will treat all animals with respect and in a humane way, at all times. Strict supervision will be maintained and appropriate hygiene will be implemented.

RELATED POLICIES

- Epping Heights OSHC Policy A-15: Role of Management Committee
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-9: Emergency Procedures
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-15: Allergies
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy E-2: Written Program

PROCEDURE

The decision to keep a pet or have an animal visit the Centre will be made by the Centre Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor based on an observed need or value to the children. Animals may be incorporated as part of the educational program.

The Centre Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor must discuss with the Management Committee and have approval of the Management prior to any animal being able to enter the Centre.

Any animal 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.

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.

Considerations regarding individual children's allergies will be taken into account before bringing an animal in the Centre.

All animals which are kept in the Centre shall be maintained in a clean and healthy condition. All hygiene procedures will be followed regarding cleaning and disposal of waste. All animals will be located away from any food or food preparation areas (see D-2: Hygiene policy and D-4: Food Safety and Handling policy)

All animals in the Centre will be treated in a humane way with respect, at all times.

Educators will be designated the duty of ensuring that the animal is appropriately fed and looked after. Alternately a roster of Educators and children can be made to fulfil this duty.

Appropriate food and water will be replenished and maintained at all times.

Appropriate arrangements shall be made to ensure the animal is appropriately cared for over weekend and holiday breaks.

Children will be educated on an on-going basis on how to properly care for and handle animals. Children will be reminded about the hygiene practices required after handling any animals and Educators will ensure that this is maintained.

Supervision is to be maintained at all times when animals are present around children.

Unknown or Nuisance Animals on the Premises (refer to Emergency Procedures)

No animals should be on the premises without the authority of the Centre Coordinator/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 not known to them.

In the event that an animal unknown to the Centre is on the premises the Educators 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:

Quietly have the children 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.

Report to pest exterminator, local council or other appropriate body for treatment.

SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- My Time, Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia – V2.0
- Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act 1979
- Companion Animals Act (1998)

Endorsed: 04/06/2024	Review Date: 04/06/2026
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