



Kaitiaki Kindergartens

Operational Policies

7.18 Care of Animals

Classification: Health and Safety
Applies to: All Staff
Approved by: General Manager

Date: September 2021
Review Date: September 2024

Purpose:

- To ensure all animals in Kaitiaki Kindergartens are cared for appropriately and hygienically.

References:

- Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008.
- Ministry of Health, Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- Wildlife Act 1953.
- Local Council Regulations.
- Caring for Animals: A Guide for Teachers, Early Childhood Educators and Students, by TKI Joint Venture for the New Zealand Ministry of Education.

Definition:

- Kaitiaki Kindergartens – is referred to as 'The Association'
 - Head Teachers and Centre Managers – are referred to as Service Leaders
 - Kindergartens and Early Learning Centres – are referred to as services
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Policy

1. All teachers in the service must agree before animals are brought into the service.
2. Teachers will demonstrate to children that animals require appropriate care and attention.

Procedures

Animals will only be kept or allowed to visit The Association sites for the purpose of observation with the prior knowledge and approval of the Professional Practice Leader and in accordance with the following goals and principles:

Goals

- To encourage, through example, the proper care of living things.
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- To provide opportunities for children to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in humane ways.
- To ensure that in any activity involving the keeping of an animal, the welfare of the animal is given high priority.
- To educate children by example and discussion about the importance of caring for animals and the responsibilities this involves.

Principles

1. The day-to-day care of all vertebrates, and some invertebrates, in the care of The Association will be governed by the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
2. All creatures at a service will be treated with care and respect.
3. Responsibility for the welfare of animals at the service rests with the Service Leader at each site, and ultimately with the Professional Practice Leader.
4. The service will ensure that any animal kept will have its physical, health and behavioural needs met by:
 - (a) Providing it with proper and sufficient food and water (including during weekends and holidays).
 - (b) Providing it with adequate shelter (i.e. appropriate cages or containers that are properly ventilated and hygienic and do not allow exposure to extremes of noise, temperature, draughts and sunlight).
 - (c) Providing it with the opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour (appropriately sized enclosures with suitable environmental enrichment and freedom and opportunities for applicable social and environmental stimulation and interactions where appropriate for the species).
 - (d) Handling in a manner that minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress (through proper care and handling that does not include unreasonable or prolonged restraint).
 - (e) Protection from and early diagnosis of any significant injury or disease (this includes prevention and management of parasite infestation).
5. If appropriate care and facilities cannot be provided, animals will not be kept at a particular site.
6. Diseased or injured animals will be treated promptly and will not be kept at the service until they have recovered. If this is not feasible, they will be humanely euthanized wherever practicable by a veterinarian.
7. Animals kept at the service will be kept in accordance with the conditions relevant to the particular species, outlined in Section 3 of Care of Animals: A Guide for Teachers, Early Childhood Educators and Students. Species not covered by this section will not be kept.
8. Prior arrangements about long-term care (including holiday care) will be made before any animals are kept. When the animal is no longer able to be kept, appropriate arrangements will be made to find a suitable home for it. Pets will not be released into the wild under any circumstances. If appropriate arrangements cannot be made, the animal will be humanely euthanized by a



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veterinarian provided that prior approval has been obtained from the Professional Practice Leader.

9. Native animals will not be kept under any circumstances. Note that under the Wildlife Act 1953, it is illegal to keep any species of native animal without a permit from the Department of Conservation.
10. Animals will not be manipulated (as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 1999) in any teaching or study. The Association recognises that manipulation of animals requires an approved code of ethical conduct approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Signed:

Date: 30-3-22

General Manager

Brian Kukler

Endorsed by

Signed:

Date: 31/3/22

President of the Board

PAUL GREDEN

