



Animal and Pets Policy and Procedure

Aim:

- Maryland Care and Early Education Centre includes; pets, animals, insects and reptiles within the educational program, if they are managed by professional & licensed handlers, or are pets that are permitted within the confines of the centre as in line with DECS & Department of Health Regulations.

Legislative requirements / Sources:

Education and Care Service National Regulations- Regulation 168: Education and Care service must have policies and procedures

Managing WH&S in Children's services (2003)

Staying Healthy in Childcare- Fifth Edition (2012)

Implementation:

- Any animals or pets used in our program will be properly housed, cared for, immunised and registered in accordance with licensing regulations.
- Any animals used as part of our educational program will be cared for humanely and will be cared for by staff and children each day or as required during centre operation. During the shutdown period pets will be managed by staff members that volunteer to care for them during this time.
- Exhibitors of mobile animal displays will only be used at our service if they are licensed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act (EAPA), as required by NSW law.
- No domestic pets are allowed within the confines or grounds of the centre due to the WH&S, health legislations & insurance responsibilities of our service.
- All parents and caregivers will be informed of any visits to the centre by animals or other creatures so children with health troubles (asthma, allergies) can be informed and make a decision as to their child's participation in any experience.

- Room staff will take responsibility for any animal that is a component of the program in their particular room.
- The animal housing will be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis.
- No animals or creatures will be taken near, or be housed in areas of food preparation, storage or serving.
- Staff, children & families will be encouraged to tend to the care of any animal involved in the program.
- All children & staff will ensure appropriate hygiene procedures are followed, once any animal has been handled (hand washing).

Review:

This policy is the intellectual property of Maryland Care & Early Education Centre and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service. This policy is available in other languages upon request.

Last Review: March 2018

Next Review : March 2020