



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 OH&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, inoculated 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 & 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 & 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 2016

Next Review : March 2018