

# ANIMALS AND DOMESTIC PETS POLICY

Adopted by Approved Provider of Golden Plains Shire Council Children's Services

04 September 2018

Date revised

July 2022

Next revision due

July 2024

Evidence of link to: NQS: 2.3.2, 3.3.2 : ECSNR: r116(e)

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy will provide guidelines for:

- Keeping animals in a family day care place of service.
- Managing animals visiting the family day care service.

## 2. RATIONALE

Animals in an appropriate environment can be both educational to children and promote a sense of caring and responsibility. As Educators of young children, we have a responsibility to ensure that children have an understanding of and caring attitude towards all living things, so that their experiences with animals are respectful and considerate. However, birds and animals can in certain situations pose a health and safety risk, therefore children in Family Day Care must be allowed only supervised and limited access to animals.

## 3. STRATEGIES AND PRACTICE

The Approved Provider, The Nominated Supervisor and Educators are responsible for:

- Conducting and documenting an initial risk assessment before children have access to any animals and these are to be signed by parents.
- Ensuring children are closely supervised at all times when they have access to animals.
- A cage or hutch within the children's play area is acceptable, as long as special precautions are taken to protect children. (eg. Closed mesh to prevent children's finger access – such as fly wire, shade cloth). These must be approved by the co-ordination unit prior to use.
- Ensuring all dogs are kept separate from where the children in care are at all times unless in a directly supervised organised activity. The area provided to isolate dogs must restrict penetration from children's fingers. Birds are to be in an inaccessible enclosure. Reptiles must be in an inaccessible locked enclosure.
- Informing families of what animals are kept on the premises at the initial home visit. Families are to be advised what measures are put in place for dogs, cats and birds to remain inaccessible to children.
- Informing the coordination unit prior to a new pet being acquired.
- Reporting to the co-ordination unit and family of any injury caused to a child or adult by an animal. Any animals that have shown any forms of aggression towards a child will be required to remain permanently isolated and inaccessible to children.

- Ensuring children are educated about correct handling techniques and acceptable behaviour when handling animals.
- Ensuring adults and children wash hands and follow hygiene techniques after handling any animals.
- Ensuring all pets are kept clean, well-cared for and in a healthy condition and do not have any diseases that can be transmitted to children. Pets should be kept vaccinated, de-wormed/wormed and free of fleas or other pests or infections.
- Promptly treating any ill animals by a vet.

#### 4. DAY TO DAY SERVICE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

Reviewed at monthly team meetings and as required

#### 5. REFERENCES

- Kidsafe – Dog attacks
- RCH Safety Centre – Dogs and kids, Children and safety with pets
- Staying Healthy in Child Care – Fourth edition 2005  
[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files\\_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch43.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch43.pdf)

#### 6. RESOURCES AND FURTHER READING

- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- ACECQA National; Quality Framework Resource Kit [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)
- Childcare service Handbook (Department of Education)
- VEYLDF, EYLF, MTOP
- ELAA
- DET <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation/Pages/Family-day-care-services.aspx#link77>

#### 7. REVIEW

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY	Approved Provider
ACTION RESPONSIBILITY	Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Responsible Person, Contract Educators (FDC) All Parents/Guardians, Volunteers and Students
PROCESS RESPONSIBILITY	All Staff, Nominated Supervisor, FDC Educators (Contract)
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY	Approved Provider

ADOPTED BY APPROVED PROVIDER REVIEWED 2022