

## WCS Children's Services

### SAFETY - Animal Policy

#### Policy Statement

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Contact with animals and caring for them increase children's awareness of the interdependence of creatures, humans and the physical environment. However, clear guidelines need to be set to ensure the safety of both the children and the animals.

#### Strategies and Practices

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- At enrolment, parents/guardians are asked to inform the service if their child has any allergy to animals. All educators/staff are notified and details of the allergy are displayed throughout the service. Animals are kept inaccessible to children with pet allergies.
- Children are supervised at all times whilst handling animals at the service.
- Any animal or pet kept at the service is fed and watered regularly and its cage/container kept clean.
- Pet food and any equipment needed for its care is stored in a place inaccessible to children.
- All pet cages and containers are secured, so as not to be a hazard.
- Educators intentionally teach children to respect all animals and how to handle and care for them. Educators also teach children that not all animals are friendly, and to always check with an animal's owner before petting the animal.
- Animals and pets are kept away from:
  - Food preparation areas
  - Sandpits.
- All persons including children wash their hands immediately before and after they have touched an animal, and children are taught the reasoning for this.
- In the event of a child being scratched or bitten by an animal and the skin penetrated, the wound will be treated in accordance with First Aid procedures immediately. An Incident Report will be completed, and the parent/guardian contacted and advised to take the child to a medical practitioner.
- In Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) permission is required from the school.
- Pets have to be immunized, where required.
- Children's pets can only be brought into the service with 2 weeks' prior permission from the supervisor. The owner remains responsible for the pet at all times it is in the service.
- Any pet brought to the service when families are dropping off or collecting children must be secured outside the service grounds and out of the reach of children.

## Responsibilities of parents/guardians

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- To obtain prior permission from the supervisor before bringing any pet to the service. The owner remains responsible for the pet at all times it is in the service.

## Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2018

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Regs	103	Premises, furniture and equipment must be safe, clean and in good repair
	168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures

QA	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.
	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and supported.
	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
	3.1.2	Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well-maintained.

## Sources, further reading and useful websites

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### Sources

- Early Years Learning Framework 2009
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, 2017
- National Quality Standard 2011, 2018
- Queensland Health. (2008). Infection control guidelines for animal contact: Education and childcare services  
[http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/cdb/zoo\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/cdb/zoo_guidelines.pdf) accessed 6 March 2012
- Dr. B. Abbey and P. Maclean, NQS - the complete system of policies, procedures and forms, [www.childcarebydesign.com](http://www.childcarebydesign.com).

### Further reading

- NHMC. (2005). *Staying healthy in child care: Preventing diseases in childcare. 4th edition.*  
[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files\\_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch43.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch43.pdf) accessed 6 March 2012
- Owens, A. (2007). *NCAC Factsheet: Animals and domestic pets.*  
[http://ncac.acecqa.gov.au/educator-resources/factsheets/fdcqa\\_factsheet\\_11.pdf](http://ncac.acecqa.gov.au/educator-resources/factsheets/fdcqa_factsheet_11.pdf) accessed 6 March 2012

## Useful websites

- Animal Ethics Committee – [www.decs.sa.gov.au/animalethics](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/animalethics)

## Policy Review

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This policy is a living document and will be monitored and reviewed as issues are identified. Proposed changes will be circulated and discussed by all programs and any external stakeholders for approval.

### Person Responsible for Review:


Manager, Children's Services

<b>Implementation Date:</b>	3 November 2014	<b>Review Date:</b>	March 2021
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### Modification History

Date	Sections and/or Paragraphs	Source	Details
2016/07	Whole document		New format
2018/02	Quality Areas	Revised National Quality Standard 2018	
2018/07	Review of whole document		Minor changes to wording
2019/03	Policy review		Minor changes to wording

Approved by Susan Henderson, Manager, Children's Services.



Date: 16 January 2014