

BASP



“Working Together for a Better Future”

ANIMAL & PET POLICY

PURPOSE

Our service aims to provide a safe, hygienic and humane environment for all animals and pets that visit the service, which will educate children in the proper care of animals.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Pets help children from a young age to learn to care for other living things. They can teach a sense of responsibility, caring and tolerance. They can offer many opportunities for developing observational skills and basic natural science experiences. If the educators wish to have a pet in the service, they must make all the decisions in consultation with the Nominated Supervisor and families.

Educators are encouraged to foster children’s ability to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.

Responsible ownership of pets, animals or birds that may visit the premises is vital. Role models of appropriate behaviours with animals and guidance in caring for the needs of animals are beneficial for children.

Animal Visit

There are situations that may spontaneously occur, involving animals. For example, there may be a situation where an animal or bird has made its way into the program. Educators may use this as a spontaneous learning experience for the children. At all times they will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children.

If an animal or bird is potentially dangerous; such as a snake or spider, educators will contact an appropriate authority for assistance. In VIC this authority is the Wildlife Victoria ph: 1300 094 535.

A professional should monitor the animal's movement to ensure a speedy and efficient capture, but priority is to be given to educator, child and family safety. At no time is the potentially dangerous animal, insect or bird to be approached or touched by educators, children or families.

Pets & Vermin

- Pest control will occur on an annual basis.
- If pests and vermin are observed, Educators will advise the Nominated Supervisor.
- The approved Provider is responsible for arranging pest control visits.
- Where appropriate, Educators will discuss with the children safety issues relating to dangerous products plants, vermin and objects.
- Educators will thoroughly clean all areas that animals or pests have accessed.
- If the remains of an animal or animal faeces have been found, the remains will be disposed of according to the local council guidelines and the area where the remains were found will be thoroughly disinfected.
- Educators are responsible for assessing any situation where animals are involved to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children, families and animals.

Last update: July 2020

Next review: 2023