



# Carlton Gardens Primary School

## ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS POLICY

**Authorisation**  
December 2018  
Review 2021

### Purpose

The inclusion of well cared for animals and pets into the curriculum has many benefits for students, but needs to be properly managed to ensure the benefits for the children are complemented by a safe, comfortable and secure environment for the animals involved.

### Aims

- To provide the students with first hand experiences of caring for animals and pets, whilst at the same time, ensuring that the students realise and meet the obligations involved in caring for pets
- To treat all animals with respect and consideration, ensuring that the level of care for animals is maintained over holidays and weekends.
- maintain records of animal care and use for audit inspection by VSAEC
- To take care to prevent the spread of disease with hygiene and minimal handling of animals
- To seek written consent from the parents/carers and students to take animals home beyond completion of a teaching unit
- To not keep animal(s) at school if appropriate level of care and welfare cannot be provided.

### Implementation

- Our school actively encourages the integration of appropriate animals and pets into our classrooms.p
- It is well recognised that pets provide children with companionship, a sense of caring, and develop responsibilities.
- Classroom animals and pets allow children to study the lives of animals through firsthand experience.
- Any class wishing to incorporate a living animal or pet into their room must provide a comprehensive plan to the principal for approval (which demonstrates that the class has appropriately considered essential issues such as feeding, housing, costs, cleaning, vet care, school vacation periods, etc) prior to the introduction of any animal into the room.
- Whilst students may take day to day care of classroom pets, a staff member must accept overall responsibility for each animal.
- The school will not purchase animals, and the responsible staff member must provide a viable long-term plan for any animal brought to the school as a classroom pet.
- The school will pay for veterinary care and any other costs associated with the safe keeping of any animal or pet kept at school.
- Classes that have pets must have a well-known emergency procedure if the animal escapes so that children do not over-react and endanger the health of the pet involved.
- Guest speakers demonstrating good pet care practices will be welcomed to the school.
- Pets that die have a profound effect on some children. Therefore, the death of classroom pets will be managed in a caring manner. The death of a classroom pet will be discussed openly with students in a manner consistent with their age and understanding, as a natural part of the life cycle of all living things.

### Resources/references

- The [Care and Use of Animals in Schools](#): DEECD
- Related legislation and regulations
  - Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and its regulations of 1997
  - Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (7th Edition, 2004)
  - Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits
  - Wildlife Act 1975 and its regulations of 2002
  - Environment Protection Act 1970, as amended
  - Acts, guidelines and codes of practice relating to farm animals and wildlife available on the [Department of Primary Industries](#)

### Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.