Wideview Out of School Hours Care

37 Wideview Rd
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Policy 27

Animal Policy

Policy Statement

Wideview Outside School Hours Care Service acknowledges that whilst animals are not a necessary part of the program, they can be a great source of enjoyment and stimulation for children. The opportunity for children to engage with animals offers children experiences that will enrich their understanding and appreciation of the natural environment and promote the development of their skills in caring for others. While pets and other animals can prove an effective inclusion into the children's experiences whilst in care, they may also be a risk to children, therefore any animals that enter the service must be housed appropriately to minimise the risk of danger to the children. Strict supervision will be maintained to ensure the health and safety of the children and educators. Staff will ensure that everyone in the service treats all animals humanely and with respect.

Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations and National Quality Standard

QUALITY AREA		
1.2	Practice	Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development.
1.2.1	Intentional teaching	Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
3.1	Design	The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service.
3.1.2	Upkeep	Premises, furniture, and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
77	Health, hygiene, and safe food practices
109	Toilet and hygiene facilities

Procedure

1. Pet procedures

1.1 The decision to keep a pet or have an animal (or animals) visit the service will be made by the Service Manager, based on an observed need or value to the children. The Manager will inform families of the benefits and potential risks associated with animals in the service and the procedures relating to pets and children.

1.2 Any animal or bird will only be considered with the clear understanding of them being safe and suitable with children, and an assurance that the animal will be properly cared for.

1.3 No animal, bird or livestock will be allowed which is likely to be a source of infection or which in any way may be detrimental to the wellbeing of the children.

1.4 A review of all children's allergies will be conducted before considering any animal at the service.

1.5 The Nominated Supervisor will liaise with the Parent Management Committee and seek approval from the school Principal after providing appropriate risk assessments for animals to be on the school premises for any purpose including incursions.

1.6 All animals, which are kept in the service, shall be maintained in a clean and healthy condition.

1.7 All hygiene procedures will be followed regarding cleaning and disposal of waste.

1.8 All animals will be located away from any food or food preparation areas.

1.9 Everyone in the service will treat with respect and in a humane way all animals, at all times.

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1.10 A staff member will be designated the duty of ensuring that the animals are appropriately fed and looked after.

1.11 Appropriate food and water will be maintained and kept topped up at all times.

1.12 Appropriate arrangements shall be made to ensure the animal is appropriately cared for over weekend and holiday breaks.

1.13 Children will be educated on an ongoing basis on how to properly care for and handle animals.

1.14 Children will be reminded about the hygiene practices required before and after handling any animal and staff will ensure that this is maintained.

1.15 Fish tanks must be covered at all times to reduce water hazards and safety of children and pets.

Sources, further reading and useful websites

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia (2011).
- Staying Healthy in Child Care
- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
- Risk Assessments

Policy review information -

The Service encourages staff and parents to be actively involved in the annual review of each of its Policies and Procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur, and any issues identified as part the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the annual review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and maintain the highest standards of child safety and practice.

Review Date	Date completed	By Whom	Collaborated	Comment
Oct 2022	31 Oct 2022	Brandi (Manager)	Staff Committee Parents	
Oct 2023	31 Oct 2023	Brandi (Manager)		
Oct 2024	Oct 2024	Brandi (Manager)		
Oct 2025	24 Oct 2025	Brandi (Manager)		
Oct 2026	28 Oct 2026	Brandi (Manager)		