



He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua
Free Kindergarten Association Incorporated

Date Effective: August 2020

Review Date: August 2022

Care of animals and living creatures in kindergarten

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| Responsible to: | Chief Executive Officer, Senior Teachers |
| Applies to: | All Teachers |
| Purpose: | To ensure all animals in kindergartens are cared for appropriately and hygienically, demonstrating care and empathy and children are kept safe from any harm |
| References: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008•Ministry of Health, Animal Welfare Act 1999•Local Council Regulations |

Policy

1. All teachers in the kindergarten must agree before animals are brought into the kindergarten.
2. Teachers will demonstrate to children that animals require appropriate care and attention, facilitating a code of care and empathy.
3. All teachers will identify potential risks having animals in kindergarten for children's safety.

Procedures

1. Each team will develop procedures which identify how and where they will house and care for animals, how water and food will be provided and appropriate medical care including veterinary or pet shop care, how and where children will interact with and care for the animal, how potential safety risks have been discussed and or minimised, how interactions will be supervised and how hygiene practices will be adhered to,
2. Animals must be suitably housed in an enclosure or area that is not encroaching to the children's play space and in a way that ensures appropriate ventilation, temperature, sunlight and shelter is provided for where appropriate
3. Animals held for observation should be returned to their housing, enclosure or natural habitat on completion of the study or to a similar environment.
4. Personal pets may be brought to the kindergarten after consultation and in agreement with the whole teaching team as part of the kindergarten programme.

5. Teaching teams will determine potential risks and may develop a plan for minimising these risks using the Animal Risk Assessment tool where appropriate.