

POLICY

ANIMAL WELFARE

RATIONALE

Under the Animal Protection Act 1987, we are required to have a Code of Ethical Conduct relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under our care.

PURPOSES

- ◆ To encourage, through example, the proper care of living things, within the school situation. (refer Science in the NZ Curriculum, Living World Section; Achievement Objectives 3 & 4)
- ◆ To provide experiences for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
- ◆ To ensure the care and welfare of animals has the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
- ◆ To educate students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care, welfare and the responsibilities involved.

GUIDELINES

1. 'Animal' is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as spiders, snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal is not kept at school.
4. Creatures kept, must be housed and fed properly and returned to their habitat at the end of the study.
5. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care is guaranteed.
6. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved.

The following freedoms apply:

- i. Animals must have an appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.
- ii. Animals must have cages of an appropriate size.
- iii. Animals must be free from injury and disease.
- iv. Animals must not be subjected to stress or fear.
- v. Animals must be able to express normal behaviour.

Where any activity is planned which may cause distress or suffering to the animal, approval must be obtained from an Animal Ethics Committee.

Formulated by Principal: 16 March 1998

Reviewed November, 2013