Animal Policy

Quality Area 3: Physical environment

Standard 3.1: The design and location of the premises is appropriate for the operation of a service

Standard 3.2: The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play

Standard 3.3: The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future

Animals will only be kept on the premises as an educational resource and supported in the program and philosophy of the Service encouraging the children to connect with and contribute to their world and become confident and involved learners.

- All care requirements will be met, specific to the animal.
- Protected wildlife will not be kept at the service unless the service is authorised to keep the animal by law.
- The licensees and staff have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that any animals kept at the service do not pose health/safety risks to children, adults or the animals.
- Staff will promulgate and implement a management plan relating to care of animals on weekends and during holiday periods.
- Before any animal is introduced in the Service, a risk assessment will be carried out to preempt any possible hazards plan accordingly.
- All animals will be kept as a passive display. Children will be encouraged to observe the animals but respectfully not touch or handle the animals.
- Animals will be feed according to their needs. Example: The turtles: fed once a day with food item one and food item two.
- The habitat will be considerate to meet all of the animal’s needs. The turtles (maximum 2) will have a 100 litre tank that has clean water, all waste is removed daily and a water change scheduled monthly.
- The carer will execute all necessary hygiene practices to ensure that the environment, animals, adults and children remain safe and healthy.
- Eating and drinking within animal areas is unhygienic, as is animals having free access to areas where children eat. Under no circumstances should animals have access to the kitchen or where food is consumed when children are present.
- Educators must ensure that children are supervised if they have access to animals feeding or drinking containers. Containers used for the animals food and water must be disinfected regularly.
- The habitat will be as authentic to its natural environment as possible.
Example: The turtle tank will have a land area along with a water area.

Example: The tank will have a heat lamp and the animals will not be removed from the tank to avoid sudden temperature changes which can affect their immune system.

Example: The tank has been arranged so there is an area for the turtles to bask in the heat lamp.

Example: All plant life that is added to the tank will be sourced to ensure that they are not poisonous to the turtles.

- Animal faeces and litter from animal cages must be disposed of daily.

- The animal enclosure will be positioned in a suitable location avoiding a classroom situation so that the animals are not constantly being stimulated by children and children will be supervised by Educators and or parents when near the enclosure.

- Educators will be aware of the animals and their behaviour and well-being. Educators will respect that they are living creatures and encourage the children to have the same empathy and responsibility.

- Educators will look for signs of distress in the animal and act accordingly. Animals will receive adequate amounts of food, nutrients, water, parasite treatment and veterinary care to achieve a high standard of health.

- Animal / pet licensing information will be kept in the kindy if the centre chooses to have a pet in the kindy.

Date that the policy was last updated or revised: January 2016

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Nadiya Khan
Director

This policy was developed and sourced with consultation with National Quality Standard, Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Nature Conservation Regulation 1994, Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2002, Petting Zoo Infection Control Guideline

Australian International Islamic College Kindy