Pet 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.

- Educators must inform parents at initial interview if animals are kept at the Service. Educators must inform parents if a new pet is obtained. Parents may choose to terminate care if the pet is a health risk e.g. allergy

- All care requirements will be met, specific to the animal. Any pet kept at the Service will be regularly fed, cleaned, vaccinated, have flea powder applied to them and be regularly checked for fleas and wormed

- Protected wildlife will not be kept at the service unless the service is authorised to keep the animal by law

- Educators have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that any animals kept at the premises do not pose health/safety risks to children, adults or the animals

- Before any animal is introduced in the Service, a risk assessment will be carried out to pre-empt any possible hazards and then planned for accordingly.

- All animals within the care environment 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 fed according to their needs. *Example: The turtles: fed once a day with food item one and food item two.*

- Domestic pets such as dogs are unpredictable and can cause serious injury to a young child; all pets should be made inaccessible to children unless involved in a specific activity that is directly supervised by the Educator or other adult e.g. brushing the dog, feeding the rabbit.

- Do not allow children to put their faces close to animals; animals must be separated from children if transported in a car

- On an excursion with a pet, the Educator must allocate a specific person to supervise the animal

- The habitat will be considerate to meet all of the animal’s needs.
• The Educator 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.

• 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 the main room 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.

• A child’s pet will only be allowed in the Service when permission has been granted by the Nominated Supervisor. If an animal is brought to the Service when families are collecting children it must be left at the gate far enough way so children cannot touch the animal through the fence

• Pets will not be allowed in the sandpit or any other play area. In the event that this happens and the animal contaminates the area the substance will immediately be removed and the area hosed down and sanitised accordingly.

• 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 is kept at; the kind if the service chooses to have a pet.

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