



School

**Dunedin Rudolf Steiner**

Learning with head, heart and hands

## **ANIMAL WELFARE PROCEDURE**

### **PURPOSE**

To encourage the proper care of living things by:

- Educating students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care, welfare and the responsibilities involved,
- Providing experiences for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way,
- Ensuring that the school's legal and moral responsibilities are met.

### **SCOPE**

This procedure is to be applied in all situations where animals are held at school, or where they are used by the school for teaching or research purposes. Outcomes 1 & 2 also apply to other living creatures such as insects, spiders etc similarly held or used by the school.

### **DEFINITIONS**

An ANIMAL is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

The responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, and, ultimately with the Principal. The member of staff takes responsibility for any animals they introduce and holds a care plan for those animals, including a clear plan for weekends and holidays.

### **OUTCOMES**

1. Living creatures kept at the school must be housed and fed properly. Provision must be made for care over weekends and holidays.
2. Where living creatures have been captured for observation they must be returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
3. Animals must be fed a balanced diet that maintains health and bodyweight, and is appropriate to the type of animal and its experience.
4. Animals must have continuous access to adequate amounts of clean water.
5. Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, designed and maintained to: provide ventilation, shelter from the weather and be able to be adequately cleaned and to permit the animal to express most normal behaviours.

6. Animals must be free from injury or disease. If diseased or injured, animals must be removed from the school or kindergarten and treatment sought without delay.
7. Animals must be kept and handled in such a way that they are not subject to distress or fear.
8. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal will not be kept at the school or kindergarten.

All staff, members of the Board and the school community are informed of this policy and consulted with prior to any changes.

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Principal

Dated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_      Review Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_