



Kindergarten

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner

Learning with head, heart and hands

ANIMAL WELFARE PROCEDURE

PURPOSE

To encourage the proper care of living things by:

- Educating children 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 kindergarten'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 kindergarten.

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 Kindergarten Head Teacher and the Proprietors Trust. 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

- I Living creatures kept at the kindergarten 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 is able to maintain health and bodyweight, and is appropriate to the type of animal and its experience.

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 able to be adequately cleaned,
 - permit the animal to express most normal behaviours.
6. Animals must be free from injury and disease. If diseased or injured, animals must be removed from the 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 is not to be kept at the kindergarten or kindergarten.
9. Tiki the dog is based in the Rata Room, and the children are taught how to care for him, including handling and respect. The children are taught good hygiene practices around handwashing, food and handling Tiki.

NamePosition: Kindergarten Head Teacher

Signed by.....

Date reviewed..... Date of next review.....