

## SECTION 3

### HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

#### 5.10 Pet & Animal Policy

**Aim:**

1. To provide children with appropriate educational experiences with living creatures
2. To provide children with first hand experiences in learning about the appropriate action required in caring for animals.

**Process:**

1. Educators will ensure that children's interaction with animals is supervised at all times.
2. Educators will ensure children wash their hands after handling animals.
3. Educators will ensure that children do not play in dirt that may be contaminated by animals, in particular ensure that children do not place the dirt or dirty hands in their mouths.
4. The Centre will exclude sick animals.
5. Educators incorporate the caring of birds and animals into the learning program.
6. The Director will ensure that animals are appropriately housed.
7. Regular maintenance will ensure that animal cages and enclosures are kept clean.
8. The Director / Assistant Director will ensure that animals are handled appropriately and if necessary, staff will be trained to teach children appropriate handling.
9. Educators will program learning activities that support and enhance the children's experiences with animals.
10. Educators will access additional services to assist and enhance the learning program. eg. Nature Ed Centre, Pet Shop, visiting farms, reptiles, zoo groups.
11. The Director / Assistant Director will liaise with DECD's animal ethics officer where necessary.
12. Educators must be aware of each individual child's health needs (eg. allergies) when planning learning experiences involving animals.

SOURCE: Animal Ethics Committee