Animal and Pet **procedure**

**Purpose**

To promote respect for the environment and all animals, to educate children about the proper care and treatment of animals, and to provide a safe and hygienic environment that minimises the risk of injuries from the animal.

**To whom it applies**

Educators and children

**Related policies and legislation**

Education and Care Services National Law

Education and Care Services Regulations

National Quality Standards

-Keeping Pets and Animals in Education and Care Services – Fact Sheet Quality Area 3 - ACEQUA

**Procedure**

1. The Nominated Supervisor will complete a written risk assessment before allowing any animal to be kept at the service, or pet to visit the service, and take appropriate actions to reduce the risk of harm the animal may pose to children and adults (which may include a decision not to proceed). Records of the assessment and resulting actions will be maintained at the service.
2. Children must be closely supervised when accessing any animal or pet at the service.
3. Any animal or 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. Any animal in a cage will have its cage cleaned daily.

1. Educators will teach children how to properly care for animals and how to treat them appropriately.

1. Room tasks will include feeding, cleaning and caring for the animal, and children will take turns completing these activities. The roster will be supervised by educators to ensure caring for and feeding the animal is not overlooked.
2. The Nominated Supervisor and educators will implement a staff roster to ensure any animal that requires care or feeding over the weekend or outside service operating hours is either taken to a staff member’s home or provided with care and food at the service during these periods.

1. Animals or pets will never be taken into the food preparation area nor will they be allowed near the eating or sleeping area.
2. Anyone who has handled the animal or pet will immediately wash their hands after they have finished handling the animal or pet.

1. Children’s animal or pets 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 away so children cannot touch the animal through the fence.

**Effective date**

**1/01/2020**

**Version control and change history**

**First published**

1/01/2020

**Republished**

Click or tap to enter a date.

**Review date**

Click or tap to enter a date.