



## Animal and Pet Policy 2024

### NQS

QA2	2.2.1	Supervision - At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
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QA3	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.
	3.2.3	Environmentally responsible - The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

### National Regulations

Regs	168	Policies and procedures are required in relation to health and safety
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### EYLF

LO2	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
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### Aim

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.

### Implementation

- 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). Families will be notified of the pet that is going to be bought, previous to this to find out about allergies, if risk is too high this pet may not be purchased. Records of the assessment and resulting actions will be maintained at the service.
- Children must be closely supervised at all times when accessing any animal or pet at the service to avoid potential injury or harm to the child or animal.
- 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 at the cost of the centre. Any animal in a cage will have its cage inspected and cleaned and an animal roster will be in place for educators and maintenance to assist in caring for the animals and cleaning.
- Educators will teach children how to properly care for animals and how to treat them appropriately, children will learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.
- 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
- 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 e.g. Christmas is either taken to an educators home or provided with care and food at the service during these periods by someone.



- Animal or pets will not be allowed in the sandpit, food preparation or any other play, eat, sleep or rest area. In event that this happens, educators will refer to the Sand Pit Policy
- Animal or pets will never be taken into the food preparation area nor will they be allowed near the eating or sleeping/rest areas for children.
- Anyone who has handled the animal or pet or bedding/ cages or enclosures will immediately wash their hands after they have finished handling the animal or pet and this cleaning process can be apart of the learning experience. Educators will role model appropriate hygiene and safety practices as handling pets.
- Educators will support children during interactions with animals and handling these if required.
- 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 in case of allergies or phobias, fears.
- Some animals may not be an appropriate choice or need a licence to keep them so this will be investigated first before purchasing. Further local, state government requirements will also be taken into consideration before purchasing a pet or animal and animal welfare.
- If a child presents with any potential allergies or medical condition the families will be notified of the signs/ symptoms/ reaction and emergency procedures and policies will be followed along with calling 000 if necessary.

#### Source

**Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations**

**National Quality Standard**

**Centre Support weekly policy reviews**

**Child Safe standards**

**Early Years Learning Framework**

**ACECQA quality area 3 Keeping pets and animals in education and care services**

#### Related Telephone Numbers

- Early Childhood Directorate 1800 619 113
- NSW Health 9391-9000
- Health Direct 1800 022 222
- Emergency Services 000
- ACECQA 1300 422 327
- Police 000
- Office of the Children's Guardian 8219 3600

#### Amendment History

Version	Amendment	Short Description
106	Update approved provider	Approved provider update



This policy will be updated to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements every year. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulation*, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024  
Version: 106  
Last Amended By: Veronica Klumper-Peters  
Next Review: 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025  
Position: Approved Provider/Managing Director

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