

## Animal Welfare Policy

### **Rationale:**

Te Rāwhiti Kindergarten is committed to upholding Ministry of Education Licensing Criteria HS16: Safe and hygienic handling practices are implemented with regard to any animals at the service. All animals are able to be restrained. Children will be kept safe from the possible risks while positively gaining from the learning opportunities of interaction with animals.

### **Te Whāriki:**

Well-being/Mana Atua: Tamariki experience an environment where they are kept safe from harm.

### **Procedures:**

1. All animals, including those bought into the centre, must be able to be properly restrained at all times.
2. The responsibility for the welfare of animals kept at this Kindergarten, rests with the staff.
3. The kaiārahi has overall responsibility for determining when to take an animal to the vet or when to remove an animal due to ill health.
4. A delegated person or duty roster will be appointed to ensure the animals' living conditions are maintained to a high standard of cleanliness.
5. All kindergarten pets must be provided with a secure, safe and clean enclosure at all times.
6. Any animal faecal matter and offensive body wastes outside of the animal's cage will be cleaned up and disposed of immediately, returning the area to a clean, hygienic and usable space.
7. It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that all tamariki who have had contact with any animal wash their hands afterwards, especially prior to eating or drinking.
8. The animal will be removed from the premises and treated at the first sign of any illness. This is a legislative responsibility.
9. Animal food will be stored so that it is clearly distinguishable from human food and out of the reach of tamariki.
10. The day-to-day care of animals will be governed by the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and the Five Freedoms:
  - a) Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition.
  - b) Freedom from discomfort and lack of shelter.
  - c) Freedom from Injury, disease and parasite infestation.
  - d) Freedom from distress.
  - e) Freedom to display their normal patterns of behavior.
11. Kaiako will only allow clean, healthy, safe and easily restrained animals on the premises.
12. Parents and whānau are asked not to bring pets from home onto the kindergarten grounds, unless approved by the kaiārahi for a specific reason, such as a guide dog or special animal encounter experiences (e.g. lambs in spring, pet days).
13. Animals that are suitable to live at the kindergarten include guinea pigs, chickens, rabbits, mice, rats, fish, frogs, lizards and small birds.
14. Animals shall not be permitted in the kitchen, bathrooms/toilets or sleeping rooms.

15. Kaiako will ensure that animals are supplied with a good healthy living environment, including at weekends and holidays.
16. At any sign of an animal becoming agitated, or a tamaiti becoming upset due to the animal, they will be moved away from tamariki, returned to their enclosure or restrained.
17. Tamariki will be directly supervised by kaiako at all times when near an animal in order to ensure their safety and wellbeing and promote the safe handling of animals.
18. If tamariki feel emotionally unsafe around the animals, kaiako will communicate this to parents/whānau and work together to develop a plan to support the tamaiti. The emotional wellbeing of tamariki will be considered as the priority in this situation.

<b>Authorised:</b>	Shelley Wrigley
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