

Long Bay Primary School

Animal Welfare Policy

NAG 5



Long Bay Primary School
WHOLE CHILD EDUCATION

Rationale

The school recognises that animals and living creatures are kept to provide experiences for students to observe, handle, protect, nurture and care for a range of animals.

The care and welfare of animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal.

The education of students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved, is paramount.

Guidelines

- 1 Exposing students to experiences with living creatures can provide them with valuable learning experiences.
- 2 Within the school setting students can learn how to care for animals living in an environment different from their natural habitat.
- 3 It is necessary that care of animals complies with the Code of Ethical conduct for the Care and Use of Animals in Schools (1998).
- 4 Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
- 5 Teachers need to seek prior approval from the principal to keep an animal over a period of time / classroom pet.
- 6 Guidelines for care:
 - a) Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.
 - b) Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, and be ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.
 - c) Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated and should not be kept at school.
 - d) Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.
 - e) Animals should be able to express normal behaviour.
 - f) Any animal/living creature brought to school must also comply with the guidelines for care, and collected by the family/returned to the natural environment following the observation.
- 7 Particular attention is necessary for the care of animals over the weekend and holiday periods.
- 8 Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees.
- 9 Arrangements for appropriate disposal of animals following unscheduled demise, or at the completion of a study, is to be organised prior to the animals being brought into the classroom.

APPROVED BY:

DATE: 2011
Next Review: 2014

PRINCIPAL

BOT CHAIRPERSON

Approval

When the Board approved this Policy it agreed that no variations of this Policy or amendments to it can be made except with the approval of the Board.

A copy of this policy is to be included in the School Policy Manual, a copy of which shall be available to all staff, and to students and parents at their request.