

Long Bay Primary School

Animal Welfare Policy

NAG 6



Long Bay Primary School

Rationale

The school recognises it has a legal obligation to species identified as animals under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and that in any activity involving the keeping of an animal, or its study on a field trip, the care and welfare of animals must have a high priority. This includes a duty of care for invertebrate animals studied or kept at the school.

Education of students, through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved, is given high priority. Animals and living creatures are kept to provide experiences for students to observe, handle, protect and care for a range of animals in humane ways.

Guidelines

- 1 The day to day care of all animals and invertebrates will be governed by the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- 2 All creatures at Long Bay Primary School will be treated with care and respect. It is recognised that exposing students to experiences with living creatures, and how to care for them, can provide them with valuable learning experiences.
- 3 Within the school setting students can learn how to care for animals living in an environment different from their natural habitat.
- 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 Guidelines for care:
 - a) Animals must have an 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 have adequate shelter and not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.
 - c) Animals should be free from injury, disease and parasite infestation. Diseased or injured animals will be treated promptly and will not be kept at school until they have recovered. If this is not feasible, they will be humanely destroyed.
 - 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 patterns of behaviour.
 - f) Any animal/living creature brought to school must be collected by the family/returned to the natural environment (if a wild animal) following the observation, or a suitable home found for it.
 - g) Non-native classroom pets must not be released into the wild under any circumstances.
- 6 Animals captured on field trips will be returned to their habitat before the students leave the area, unless their proper care at Long Bay School has been prearranged.
The school will follow the guidelines of the Wildlife Act 1953, in regard to needing a permit to keep particular native species. When animals are used for a specific study they must be returned to their natural habitat or home at the end of the study.
- 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. Teachers need to seek prior approval from the principal to keep an animal over a period of time / classroom pet.
- 9 Arrangements for appropriate disposal of animals following unscheduled demise, or at the completion of a study, is to be discussed with the principal.

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.

DATE: 2020 Next Review: 2024	APPROVED BY:	
	PRINCIPAL L. Barton	BOT CHAIRPERSON K. Jackson-Cox