

NAG 5 Health and Safety - ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

Introduction

The School recognises that under the Animal Protection Act (1987), it is required to have a code of ethical conduct relating to the Welfare and treatment of any animals under its care. An animal is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.

Purpose

We wish to encourage through example the proper care of living things within the school situation. (see “Science in the N.Z. Curriculum”, Living World section - Achievement Objectives 3 & 4).

1. To provide experiences for children to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane and caring way.
2. To ensure that the care and welfare of animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area. If kept in the classroom, creatures must be returned to its natural habitat upon completion of the study
3. To educate children through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved.

Guidelines

1. No animals should be brought onto the school premises without the permission of the Principal. In the event of a child taking an animal directly to the classroom, the teacher must inform the Principal.
2. It is generally accepted that living creatures be treated with care and kindness.
3. Creatures kept in classrooms or on the school grounds must be housed and fed properly. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animals should not be kept in school.

Principal
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**Ruawai
Primary**

7. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees.

The following freedoms apply;

FREEDOM 1: Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.

FREEDOM 2: 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.

FREEDOM 3: Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated, and should not be kept at school.

FREEDOM 4: Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.

FREEDOM 5: Animals should be able to express normal behaviour wherever possible. Where an activity is planned which **may** cause distress or suffering to the animal, approval must be obtained from the Animal Ethics committee. A record will be kept by the committee of procedures followed (as set out in the act – see E.R.O. handbook, 1994 page A72 RS).

The Ruawai Primary School Animal Ethics Committee is:

Adele Slatter
Curtis Gaylor

