

ANIMAL WELFARE

QUALITY AREA 1 | ELAA version 1.0



PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines form the use, care and welfare of animals used for teaching purposes for Ride Avenue Pre School.

The policy does not include information on student and family dogs on school grounds.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

RIDE AVENUE PRE SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO:

- Complying with the legislative requirements that govern the use of animals for educational purposes.
- Providing an educational justification for the use of animals in educational contexts.
- Providing conditions and management appropriate to the behavioural and physical needs of any animals used for educational purposes.
- Ensuring that wherever and whenever animals are encountered in school activities, educators are responsible for assisting students to develop a respect for animals and to understand the ethical issues involved in the use of animals.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Ride Avenue Pre School.

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
R indicates legislation requirement, and should not be deleted					

Must comply with the relevant legislation and codes of practice (refer below to Relevant legislation and codes of practice).	R	R	R	√	√
When planning to use animals for teaching, consider the ethical and welfare issues involved.	R	R	R		
Provided evidence must demonstrate that the project has scientific or educational merit.	R	R			
Provide an appropriate space for securing caging, away from heavy traffic areas that is secure, has exercise space, hiding areas, access to sunlight, shade, and the correct temperature.	R	R			
Ensure animal's enclosure is secured when adults are not present in the room to supervise.	R	R			
Ensure good quality food is stored somewhere on site. Bedding, blankets, toys, bowls, chewing materials and grooming equipment may be necessary (depending on the species).	R	R			
Pet is included in emergency evacuation plan. Where practical include your pet in drills, modelling responsible behaviour to students. <i>Refer to Emergencies and Evacuation policy</i>	R	R			
Emergency plans are in place while the school is unoccupied include your pet. Flooding, electrical outage and fire plans all need to take classroom animals into account.	R	R			
Must seek appropriate veterinary care for any injured animals. Contact details for your veterinarian should be in the classroom. <i>See below for contact details of local vet.</i>	R	R			
If pet will be left in the classroom overnight, make sure cleaners are aware that they are there.	R	R			
Make sure students are aware of the animal's need for privacy and rest.	R	R			
Ensuring reporting procedures are followed and all incidents involving animals (<i>See Definitions below</i>) are recorded. <i>See Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma Policy</i> for Incident form. <i>See also Occupational Health and Safety Policy</i> for procedures.	R	R			
Ensure adequate preparation and safety is considered where a student may have an allergy to animals or animals' products, such as eggs, fur etc. <i>Refer to Anaphylaxis and Allergies policy.</i>	R	R	R		
Consideration of the families and children's comfort levels, skills, and abilities.	R	R			
Maintain adequate hygiene and cleanliness when handling animals. Refer to <i>Hygiene Policy</i> .	R	R			



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Many educators keep animals in their facilities, either as pets or as part of a teaching program. Pets bring happiness and responsibility. Having a pet at your facility gives children the opportunity to observe, interact and learn about animals. It can be a valuable part of a child's education and care experience, enriching their learning about nature, ecology, and relationships.

When deciding whether to have a pet, there is a lot to consider, such as:

- The amount of time an animal will be alone.
- How holiday care and veterinary treatment will be provided.
- Who is responsible for ensuring that the animal is always well looked after.

While communal responsibility is philosophically appealing, an animal needs competent and consistent care.

It sends a powerful message when a teacher/educator models responsibility for a vulnerable animal as its primary carer and protector. Animals should never be used to teach (as opposed to model) responsibility to children.

Failing to provide suitable conditions, food, water, and security for an animal is no more acceptable in the classroom than in a backyard.

There are many other ways in which children can demonstrate self-governance and commitment, without risks to animal health and welfare.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- [Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition \(2013\)](#)
- [Code of practice for the housing and care of laboratory mice, rats, guinea pigs and rabbits](#)
- [General school authorisation licence to keep wildlife](#)
- [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Victorian codes of practice for animal welfare](#)



DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g. Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable complaints, Serious incidents, Duty of care, etc. refer to the Definitions file of the [PolicyWorks](#) catalogue.

Animal/Pet

Any live non-human vertebrate (that is, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals encompassing domestic animals, purpose-bred animals, livestock, wildlife) and cephalopods (including octopus, cuttlefish and squid).

Incident: Any unplanned event resulting in or having potential for injury, ill health, damage or other loss.

Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record: Contains details of any incident, injury, trauma or illness that occurs while the child is being educated and cared for by the service, can also be used to record other incidents at Ride Ave Pre School. The Approved Provider must ensure an Injury, Trauma and Illness Record is kept in accordance with [Regulation 87 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#) and kept for the period of time specified in [Regulation 183](#). A sample is available on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au (search 'Sample forms and templates').

SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES



SOURCES

- Victorian Department of Education: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/teaching-with-animals/policy>

- Keeping Pets and Animals in Education and Care Services
https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-07/QA3_InfoSheetKeepingPetsAndAnimalsInEducationAndCareServices.pdf
- Animals in Schools <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/community-and-education/animals-in-schools>

CONTACT DETAILS

- Benalla Veterinary Clinic, 16 Church St Benalla, 57622788
- Rose City Veterinary Hospital, Carrier St, 5762 6888
- Barkley St Vets, Barkley St Benalla, 0407 877 292

RELATED POLICIES

Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reactions:
Hygiene Policy
Emergencies and Evacuations
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
Occupational Health and Safety

<https://www.rideavenuepreschool.com/policies>

EVALUATION



In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness.
monitor complaints as recorded in the Complaints Register to assess whether satisfactory resolutions have been achieved
review the effectiveness of the policy and procedures to ensure that all complaints have been dealt with in a fair and timely manner
keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (*Regulation 172 (2)*).



ATTACHMENTS

None



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Ride Avenue Pre School on 02/03/2023

REVIEW DATE: February 2025
