

Policy Statement – Health and Wellbeing Keeping of Animals

Policy Number 4.7

Date of Review: August 2013 December 2012

Reviewed By: Charmaine

Reason: Annual Review

Date of Next Review: July 2014

Checked By: Maria

Policy Statement

Palmwoods Kids Club recognizes and acknowledges the role that animals may play in the lives of children. Animals cared for by the Service will be in keeping with any regulated requirements with adequate shelter provided. Children will be given opportunity to share in the responsibility of looking after any animals in care through feeding, watering and/or caring for them on the weekends.

Relevant Laws and other Provisions

- The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:
 - *Duty of Care*
 - *Local authority regulations, Council by-laws on keeping relevant animals*
 - *NQS Area: 2.1.3, 2.1.4; 2.3.1, 2.3.2; 3.1.1; 6.1.2; 6.2.1; 7.3.5.*
 - *Policies: 4.1 - General Health and Safety, 4.2 - Infectious Diseases, 4.3 - Hygiene, 4.4 - Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 9.3 – Communication with Families.*

Policy Statement – Health and Wellbeing

Keeping of Animals

Procedures

- Palmwoods Kids Club will only keep animals:
 - where they are appropriate to the program of the Service;
 - if no children and/or educators are allergic to that type of animal;
 - if permitted by local authority regulations, and;
 - if the service has sufficient and adequate space and/or area for the keeping of the animal.
- The Coordinator will ensure that any animal, which poses a health or safety risk to any child in the Service, is safely and responsibly removed immediately.
- Hand washing and hygiene procedures will be followed after the handling of all animals, whether it is the service animal or a stray.
- Animals cared for by the Service will have plenty of food, water, air, bedding and shelter.
- Under the supervision of educators, the children will be encouraged to help with the care of the animals. Depending on the animal, families and educators may be encouraged to take care for it at home over periods of long weekends and/or service closures.
- No animals will be permitted in food preparation areas.
- In the case of a stray animal, the service will appropriately remove and restrain it whilst making attempts to contact the owners or local authorities for collection.