

ANIMAL AND PET POLICY

Contents

1	NQS	2
2	National Regulations.....	2
3	EYLF.....	2
4	Aim.....	2
5	Implementation	2
6	Service Pets.....	3
7	Animals visiting the Service	3
8	Wildlife found in the Service.....	3
9	Source	3
10	Review.....	4
11	Version Control Table	4

1 NQS

QA2	2.2.1	At all times reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA3	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.
	3.2.3	The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

2 National Regulations

Regs	103	Premises, furniture and equipment are to be safe, clean and in good repair
	168	Policies and procedures are required in relation to health and safety

3 EYLF

LO2	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
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4 Aim

Our service aims to provide a safe and hygienic environment that minimises the risk of a child being harmed by an animal. We also aim to educate children in the proper care of animals.

The Kids' Uni Policies and Procedures apply to Kids' Uni North, Kids' Uni South, Kids Uni CBD, Kids Uni iC – Preschool, Kids Uni iC – OOSH.

5 Implementation

- 5.1 Children must be closely supervised when accessing any animal or pet at the service.
- 5.2 Any animal or pet kept at the service will be regularly fed, cleaned, vaccinated, have flea powder applied to them and be regularly checked for fleas and wormed. Any animal in a cage will have its cage cleaned daily.
- 5.3 Animals or pets will not be allowed in the sand pit or any other play area.
- 5.4 Animals or pets will never be taken into the food preparation area nor will they be allowed near the eating or sleeping area.
- 5.5 Anyone who has handled the animal or pet will immediately wash their hands after they have finished handling the animal or pet.
- 5.6 Children's animal or pets will only be allowed in the service when permission has been granted by the Nominated Supervisor. If an animal is brought to the service when families are collecting children it must be left at the gate far enough way so children cannot touch the animal through the fence.
- 5.7 It will be included in the educational program how to properly care for animals and how to treat them appropriately.

6 Service Pets

- 6.1 Educators, children and families should consider the rationale for having a pet and long term implications of such a decision. Any service pet should have initial and regular ongoing health checks by a vet.
- 6.2 Pets help children from a young age to learn to care for other living things. They can teach a sense of responsibility, caring and tolerance. They can offer many opportunities for developing observational skills and basic natural science experiences. If the educators wish to have a pet in the service, they must make all the decisions in consultation with the Nominated Supervisor and families.
- 6.3 Once a service pet has been decided on the following rules are to be enforced:
 - i. Any new pet should be examined by a vet and given appropriate immunisation.
 - ii. A pet should not be able to excrete in the children's play areas.
 - iii. The pet's enclosures should be kept clean at all times.
- 6.4 The following should also be considered before purchasing a pet for a service:
 - i. The pet's enclosures should be kept clean at all times.
 - ii. Who is responsible for the care of the pet on the weekends and during closure time?
 - iii. Possible damage that the pet may cause in the playground.
 - iv. Whether there are any potential health risks to children, educators and other staff, especially allergies.
 - v. The temperament of different pets and associated costs for maintaining the pet.

7 Animals visiting the Service

- 7.1 Certain animals, birds and reptiles carry germs that can be passed on to humans, and cause illness. If there are any concerns, contact the local vet or the RSPCA before agreeing to the visit.
- 7.2 Excursions to visit animals, organised visits by professional groups as incursions or children's pets from home may all be classified as visiting animals. Prior to those visits taking place, the Nominated Supervisor may request a copy of veterinary clearance certificate to confirm that the animals are healthy.

8 Wildlife found in the Service

- 8.1 If an animal is found in the grounds of the service these are the contacts available to assist:
 - i. WIRES: Wildlife Information and Rescue Service Ph: 1300 094 737
 - ii. National Parks and Wildlife Ph: 13000 72757

9 Source

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard

Early Years Learning Framework

10 Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years and the review will include Management, Employees, Families and Interested Parties

11 Version Control Table

Version Control	Date Released	Next Review	Approved By	Amendment
1	February 2012	February 2013	Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni	
2	February 2013	February 2014	Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni	Paragraph inserted re application of policies across all centres. Migrated into new QA format.
3	Feb 2014	Mar 2017	Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni	Policy reviewed with no changes required. Review period changed to 3 years.
4	Jul 2018	Jul 2021	K.Grose – Children’s Services Manager	Updated NQS and regs references. Updated contact details for WIRES and National Parks