

## ANIMAL AND PET POLICY

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## 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.

## 5 Implementation

- 5.1 Children's animal or pets will only be allowed in the service when permission has been granted by the Nominated Supervisor.
- 5.2 Children must be closely supervised when accessing any animal or pet at the service.
- 5.3 Any animal or pet kept at the service will be regularly fed, cleaned, vaccinated, be regularly checked for fleas and wormed. Any animal in a cage will have its cage cleaned daily.
- 5.4 Animals or pets will not be allowed in the sand pit, food preparation or sleeping areas.
- 5.5 Anyone who has handled an animal or pet will immediately wash their hands after they have finished handling the animal.
- 5.6 In an unplanned event of an animal being 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. In this instance there would not be a risk assessment or appropriate health checks in place.
- 5.7 Appropriate care and treatment of animals will be included in the educational program. Pets can help children from a young age to learn to care for other living things. They can teach a sense of responsibility, care and tolerance. They can offer many opportunities for developing observational skills and basic natural science experiences.

## **6 Service Pets**

- 6.1 Prior to any decision being made about purchasing or adopting a service pet, educators must seek advice and permission from the Nominated Supervisor.
- 6.2 A full risk assessment must be conducted prior to a pet being purchased or adopted. Risks to children's health and safety need to be considered carefully and be the priority.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 The following should also be researched and considered before purchasing a pet for a service:
  - i. Who is responsible for the care of the pet on the weekends and during closure time?
  - ii. The cost involved in caring for the pet, including vet fees and possible training fees.
  - iii. Whether there are any potential health risks to children, educators and other staff, especially allergies.
  - iv. The temperament of different pets.
  - v. Possible damage that the pet may cause in the playground.
  - vi. How educators will support children if the animal becomes sick or dies.
- 6.5 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.

## **7 Animals visiting the Service**

- 7.1 Prior to any decision being made about an animal visiting the service, educators or families must seek advice and permission from the Nominated Supervisor.
- 7.2 A full risk assessment must be conducted prior to an animal visiting the service. Risks to children's health and safety need to be considered carefully and be the priority.
- 7.3 Certain animals, birds and reptiles carry germs that can be passed on to humans, and cause illness. If there are any concerns, contact a local vet or the RSPCA before agreeing to the visit.
- 7.4 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
5	November 2019	Jul 2021	Nicole Bray – Director Kids Uni iC.	Updated to reflect name change to Kids Uni iC and OOSH
6	April 2022	April 2025	K.Grose – Children's Services Manager	Added the need for a risk assessment when an animal is being brought into the service. Added the need for a permanent centre pet to be approved by the Nominated Supervisor. Added consideration for supporting children if an animal becomes sick or dies.