



# Coowarra Out Of School Care Service Inc

## Animals Policy

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Although animals are not a necessary part of the program, Coowarra OOSH believes that animals can be a valuable source of learning and enjoyment for the children. Any animals that enter the centre must be safe and present no danger to the children in any way. Educators will ensure that everyone in the centre will treat with respect and in a humane way all animals, at all times. Strict supervision will be maintained.

### **PROCEDURE**

The decision to keep a pet or have an animal visit the centre will be made by the Nominated Supervisor, based on an observed need or value to the children.

A risk benefit analysis will need to take place to weigh up the benefits versus the risk of having the animals at the service. This needs to take into account any children at the service who may have a fear, phobias or allergies to particular animals and if these children will be in care on the day that the animals will be at the service.

Any animal or bird will only be considered with the clear understanding of them being safe and suitable with children, and an assurance that the animal will be properly cared for.

No animal, bird or livestock will be allowed in the program area which is likely to be a source of infection or which in any way may be detrimental to the well-being of the children.

Checks need to be made regarding individual children's allergies before considering an animal in the centre.

All animals, which are kept in the centre, shall be maintained in a clean and healthy condition.

All hygiene procedures will be followed regarding cleaning and disposal of waste.

All animals will be located away from any food or food preparation areas.

Everyone in the centre will treat all animals humanely and with respect, at all times.



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An Educator will be designated the duty of ensuring that the animal is appropriately fed and looked after. Alternately a roster of Educators and children can be made to fulfil this duty.

Appropriate food and water will be maintained and kept topped up at all times.

Appropriate arrangements shall be made to ensure the animal is appropriately cared for over weekend and holiday breaks.

Children will be educated on an ongoing basis on how to properly care for and handle animals.

Children will be reminded about the hygiene practices required after handling any animal and Educators will ensure that this is maintained.

Supervision is to be maintained at all times.

In the event that an individual is injured as a result of handling and interacting with animals and pets that are part of the service program, Staff are to follow the guidelines outlined in First Aid Policy – Management of Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma, to ensure appropriate care is given.

Pets will have access to medical treatment, if the need arises.

Families are not to bring in family pets to the service, (eg walk the family dog to the service to collect child) unless it has been arraigned prior to the day with the service coordinator that this is to occur. The safety of the children in our care must be maintained, both animals and children can be unpredictable in new and stressful situations and we cannot put place safe guards in place if we are unaware the animal will be at the service.

Families who bring an animal onto the service premises, without prior consent, will be asked to remove the animal immediately and children are to be moved away from the area until this has taken place.

We recognise that native wildlife may be in our environment when we go out to play.

Children are to be educated, to respect the space of animals that we may share in play environment eg: birds, lizards etc, through intentional and spontaneous discussions with the children.

Daily checks of the play environment should be done, for any snakes and spiders that they may be in the play area.

Children should, when safe to do so, assist staff with the checks, so that they are aware of what to look for and how to keep themselves safe. Eg: big spider



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web in the playground is a good indicator that there is a spider in that area, so we should not play there etc.

In the event that we do have these dangerous animals on the premises, and if safe to do so, staff are to remove the spider from the environment. If it is a snake or a suspected poisonous spider on the premises staff are to ensure no child is to enter this area until the animal has been removed. Staff must immediately inform the nominated supervisor. Under no circumstance are staff to attempt to remove these dangerous animals from the environment.

<b>Education and Care Services National Regulations</b>	<b>National Quality Standard</b>	<b>Other Service policies/documentation</b>
The Education and Care Services National Law 2010  The Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- RSPCA Animal rights</li><li>- Hygiene policy</li><li>- Management of incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness policy</li><li>- First aid policy</li><li>- Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy</li><li>- Dropping off and Picking up children policy</li></ul>

UPDATED AND ENDORSED: November 2022

DATE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION: November 2025