



Animal Welfare Policy and Procedure

Rationale:

As a Centre, Kidiwise Preschool and Childcare strive to maintain the philosophy of teaching empathy and wellbeing through caring for animals. We aim to teach and encourage children how to be responsible, care for animals and keep themselves safe around them. We do this through a range of experiences both in and out of the Centre.

Purpose:

Animals are a potential risk for health and safety reasons. This policy aims to ensure all animals are cared for appropriately and hygienically and that potential risks to people's wellbeing are managed.

General Guidelines:

- All animals' needs will be met. They will be treated with care and respect.
- The animals will be supplied with a good, healthy living environment. They will have suitable living spaces out of the children's play space, which is appropriately ventilated, has sunlight and shelter and is the correct temperature.
- All animals living conditions will be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness.
- All animal food will be stored so that it is clearly distinguishable from human food.
- Staff take responsibility for feeding the animals during operating hours of the Centre. Out of hours responsibility falls with the Centre Owner/Manager, unless otherwise organised.
- Children who have had contact with animals will wash their hands under supervision.
- If an animal is sick it will be "quarantined" away from children. Children will not have contact with said animal.
- All animals on the premises will have an area where they can be restrained away from children if necessary.
- Teachers will demonstrate and model animals' rights and how to care for them.
- Children will be closely supervised around animals at all times.
- Children will be encouraged to be quiet, gentle and use walking feet around animals.

Procedures:

Dogs:

1. If dogs are on the premises they will remain on their leads at all times.
2. They will be restrained at all times when handled by children.
3. Cleaning up after dogs will be the responsibility of the dog's owner or staff who volunteers to have the dog on the floor.

Pony:

1. Each room will take responsibility for caring for the Centre pony. This will be on a monthly rotation. Teachers will be responsible for cleaning the horses water trough and refilling it. This will occur weekly in summer and every 1-2 weeks in winter.
2. The person responsible for property maintenance will rake up pony poo in the ponies' paddock once a week and ensure the living space is clean.
3. When pony rides are given all children will wear a helmet and shoes. They will be led by the person responsible.
4. If the pony is within the Centre playground area she will be restrained using her lead rope while no one is riding.
5. Children will be closely supervised when petting and feeding the pony, to minimise risk of being bitten or stood on.
6. Children will be encouraged to be quiet and gentle around the pony. They will be educated on how to pat it, feed it with a flat hand and stay away from the pony's bottom.
7. The persons responsible for opening and closing the Centre will feed the pony in the morning and evening. Children will be encouraged to help feed the pony food throughout the day.
8. After interactions with the pony staff are responsible for supervising hand washing.
9. The owner/manager of the Centre takes responsibility for caring for the general wellbeing of the pony and supplying food.

Chickens:

1. The chickens have a coop where there is enough space for each of them to roost at night. The coop will also have nesting boxes.
2. The chicken coop is fully enclosed restraining the chicken when necessary.
3. The coupe will be cleaned out by the Nestlings staff on a monthly basis. This involves raking the outdoor area of the pen and replacing the hay in the nesting boxes.
4. If chickens are out for petting and one defecates it will be cleaned up immediately.
5. The chickens are fed chicken pellets at the beginning of the day by the person responsible for opening and scraps at the end of the day from all classrooms. **NOTE: CHICKENS ARE NOT TO BE FED ANY PEELS E.G. BANANA, ORANGE, FEIJOA. THESE GO IN THE COMPOST.**
6. The Nestlings staff are responsible for ensuring the chickens have a supply of water at all times.
7. Children will be encouraged to use walking feet and quiet voices if they are out for handling. This will be closely supervised. Teachers will model how to hold them correctly and stroke them gently.
8. If children handle a chicken they will be supervised while hand washing afterwards.

9. The owner/manager of the Centre takes responsibility for caring for the general wellbeing of the chickens and supplying food.

Rabbit:

1. The rabbit has a hutch located in the car park by the pony paddock. This needs to be moved onto fresh grass regularly.
2. Nestlings and Moreporks are responsible for cleaning the rabbits hutch. This involves cleaning old hay, faeces and newspaper out of the hutch and replacing it with fresh newspaper and hay.
3. The persons responsible for opening and closing the Centre will feed the rabbit in the morning and evening. Children will be encouraged to help feed the rabbit fruit and veg throughout the day. These people will also be responsible for checking the rabbit has a supply of water each day.
4. Children will be encouraged to use walking feet and quiet voices if the rabbit is out for handling. This will be closely supervised. Teachers will model how to hold it correctly and stroke it gently. Children will be sitting when doing so.
5. If children handle the rabbit they will be supervised while hand washing afterwards.
6. The owner/manager of the Centre takes responsibility for caring for the general wellbeing of the rabbit and supplying food.

Statutory Source:

Animal Welfare Act 1999, Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008 – H16 Animals, HS12 Hazard and risk management