
 <p>YMCA We build strong PEOPLE strong FAMILIES strong COMMUNITIES</p>	Management Area: CHILDREN'S SERVICES	Pages: [03] Version No: [03] Date: [01/01/2011]
	Sub section (if applicable):	Signed: 
Policy Title: ANIMALS		Author: CHILDCARE TASKFORCE

1. Scope

- 1.1. Staff, management, families & children.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1. The YMCA 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. Staff will ensure that everyone in the centre will treat with respect and in a humane way all animals. Strict supervision will be maintained.

3. Related Policies & Procedures/Guidance Notes

- 3.1. Allergies
- 3.2. Duty of Care
- 3.3. OH&S

4. Responsibilities & Delegations



- 4.1. The Childcare Taskforce is responsible for the review of this policy.
- 4.2. The Childcare staff are responsible for the implementation of this policy.
- 4.3. The families and children are responsible for the support of this policy.

5. Considerations

- 5.1. Health and Safety Act
- 5.2. National Standards
- 5.3. Q&A Principles.
- 5.4. Animal Rights Act

6. Records Maintenance

- 6.1. This policy is to be reviewed annually.



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PROCEDURES

- The decision to keep a pet or have an animal visit the centre will be made by the Coordinator, based on an observed need or value to the children.
- The Coordinator must discuss this with the Centre Manager / Group Manager and have approval prior to any animal being able to enter the centre.
- 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 wellbeing 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 with respect and in a humane way all animals, at all times.
- A staff member will be designated the duty of ensuring that the animal is appropriately fed and looked after. Alternately a roster of staff and children can be made to fulfill 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 staff will ensure that this is maintained.
- Supervision is to be maintained at all times.


7. Version History

Version	Description of changes	Author	Effective Date
2	Review and update. New format	M. Rupnik	December 2009
3	New structure	AM. Nolan	January 2011

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I endorse the Animals Policy.

Name: Anne-Mary Nolan
 Children's Services Program Manager

Signature: 

Date: 10 January 2011

Name: Liam Whitley
 General Manager Children's Services

Signature: 

Date: 10 January 2011

