

Animal and pet policy

Date Reviewed:

June 17, 2025

Regulation:

100,113,114

Standards:

3.2

Aim

The Woden Valley Early Learning Centre (WVELC) aims to provide a healthy environment that provides children with opportunities to become responsible and knowledgeable citizens. Woden Valley ELC aims to teach children how to become responsible owners of animals, how to treat animals with respect and provide them with appropriate care.

Objectives

1. To provide a safe, clean and humane environment for all animals that reside at WVELC;
2. To ensure a safe and hygienic environment that minimises the risk of children, parents/guardians, employees and visitors being harmed by animals in care;
3. To ensure the nature pedagogical leader or person responsible for caring for animals is knowledgeable and able to perform their duties; and
4. To be a role model of positive behaviours that guide and care for animals.

Procedures

Caring for animals

- Animals residing at WVELC will be regularly fed, cleaned, have fresh water available and be health checked as required.
- Animal homes or bedding are to be cleaned effectively daily.
- Animals will not have access to children's bedding, resources, food preparation areas, eating surfaces or utensils.
- Children are to be supervised at all times when interacting with animals.
- Animals will be viewed as a natural part of the environment that provide a wealth of learning opportunities for children.
- Animals introduced to WVELC are to be approved by a nominated supervisor.
- If WVELC finds itself unable to care for an animal, a WVELC representative will find alternative carers and start a rehoming process.
- If an animal becomes seriously ill, WVELC will seek professional help and euthanise an animal, if advised, in humane way.

Infection Control

The following preventative measures will be used to minimise any risk of ill health caused from supervised contact with animals.

- Children are discouraged from touching animals while they are eating;
- Children are encouraged to not put animals near their faces;
- Children are to wash and dry their hands after touching animals;
- Children with asthma or allergies (including anaphylaxis) will be discouraged from interactions with animals; and
- Any accidental injury caused by an animal in care will be treated with first aid, an **accident, injury and trauma report** will be completed and a child's family will be notified.

Policy created on:

June 17, 2025

Written by:

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Review date:

June, 2027

References

- Education and Care Services National Regulations, December 2011
 - National Quality Standard -Quality Standard 3 Physical Environment 3.2 –We encourage educators to build children's understanding and respect for the natural environment and the relationship between people, plants, animals and the land.
 - Work Safety Act 2008
 - Staying Healthy in Childcare – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Childcare – 6th Edition pg. 31 (19/09/12)
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