

Version 2

Effective Date: September 2024

Next Review: September 2027

Document Approver: Chief Executive

Document Owner: Facilities & Services Team Leader

Applies To | Ko Wai Whakahāngaitia

All kindergarten staff.

General Principles | Mātāpono Whānui

To ensure all animals in kindergartens are cared for appropriately and hygienically.

Related Procedures or Processes and Documents | Pākanga Tukanga me Pukapuka

Not Applicable.

References | Tohutoro / Huānga ki

Education (Early Childhood) Regulations 2008.

Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Services 2008: HS16.

Ministry of Health, Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Local Council Regulations.

Display Document | Whakamātakitaki Pukapuka – No.

Practice Statement | Whakaharatau Tauākī – Required – Yes.

Policy Review Cycle | Kaupapa Arotake Hurihangā

This policy will be reviewed every three years and in conjunction with reviews of the related procedures or processes and documents outlined above.

Policy

1. All teachers in the kindergarten must agree before animals are brought into the kindergarten.
2. Teachers will demonstrate to children that animals require appropriate care and attention.
3. Teaching teams will identify any potential risks to children's safety of having animals in kindergarten and develop a plan to minimise these.

Procedure

1. Kindergartens who keep animals will need to develop a practice statement identifying:
 - How and where they will house and care for animals.
 - How and where children will interact with and care for the animal.

- How hygienic handling practices are implemented.
- How water and food will be provided.
- How animals will be cared for during kindergarten closure.

2. Animals must be suitably housed in an area that ensures appropriate ventilation, temperature, sunlight and shelter is provided for.
3. Animals held for observation should be returned to their habitat on completion of the study or to a similar environment.
4. Personal pets may be brought to the kindergarten after consultation with the teaching team and only as part of the kindergarten programme. An appropriate risk assessment and management plan will be completed.