

Rowville Primary School

Pet Policy



PURPOSE

To ensure that Rowville Primary School complies with legislation and codes relating to the responsible care of classroom pets.

GUIDELINES

- treat all animals with respect and consideration and ensure that the level of care for animals is maintained over holidays and weekends.
- gain approval from the Victorian Schools Animal Ethics Committee (VSAEC) before animals are used for scientific purposes in teaching
- maintain records of animal care and use for audit inspection by VSAEC
- take care to prevent the spread of disease by practicing good hygiene and minimal handling of animals
- seek written consent from parents/carers for students to take animals home
- the welfare of animals must be maintained at all times, including provision for care during weekends and holiday periods and for veterinary care when needed.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our school supports the integration of appropriate animals and pets into our classrooms. It is recognised that pets assist children to develop a sense of caring and responsibilities. Classroom animals and pets allow children to study the lives of animals through firsthand experience.

Any class wishing to incorporate a living animal or pet into their room must provide a comprehensive plan to the principal which demonstrates that the class has appropriately considered essential issues such as feeding, housing, cleaning, vet care and care over weekends & holidays prior to the introduction of any animal into the room.

Whilst students may take day to day care of classroom pets, a staff member must accept overall responsibility for each animal.

The school will not purchase animals and the responsible staff member must provide a viable long-term plan for any animal brought to the school as a classroom pet.

The staff member will pay for veterinary care and any other costs associated with the safe keeping of any animal or pet kept at school.

Classes that have pets must have a well known emergency procedure if the animal escapes so that children do not over-react and endanger the health of the pet involved.

Classroom teachers are responsible for the welfare of the pet in the case of emergency where the classroom needs to be evacuated.

Pets that die have a profound effect on some children, therefore, the death of classroom pets will be managed in a caring manner. The death of a classroom pet will be discussed openly with students in a manner consistent with their age and understanding, as a natural part of the life cycle of all living things

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.