

# Rowville Primary School

## Pet Policy



DET International CRICOS Code - 00861K

### Purpose

To ensure that Rowville Primary School complies with legislation and codes relating to the responsible care and welfare 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

Rowville Primary School supports the integration of appropriate animals and pets into our classrooms. It is recognised that pets assist students to develop a sense of caring and responsibility.

- Classroom animals and pets allow students 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.

### Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Approved by	Rowville Primary School Council
Next scheduled review date	This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle and will be reviewed in June 2024.