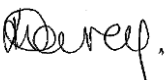



Woori Yallock Primary School

School Number: 1259



ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS POLICY

| | |
|--|---|
| Date Implemented | 23/10/17 |
| Author | David Round |
| Approved By | School Council |
| Approval Authority School Council President: (Signature & Date) |  ___/___/2017 |
| Approval by Principal or Nominee |  ___/___/2017 |
| Responsible for Review | Assistant Principal |
| Review Date | 23/010/2020 |
| References | https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/AnimalCare/default.aspx |

Rationale

At Woori Yallock Primary School, we will provide environmental enhancement and student enrichment by the safe and humane use of animals in the school.

Aim

At Woori Yallock Primary School, we want to provide students the opportunity to learn and develop an understanding about animals and the important role they have in our world. We have a responsibility to do this in a safe and controlled way where teachers are aware of the Department guidelines and the safety of the animals and students is at the forefront of our planning.

Implementation

At Woori Yallock Primary School, the following guidelines need to be followed when working with animals at school;

- In order to bring pets to school one must seek written permission from the classroom teacher prior to the visit.
- The Principal/ Assistant Principal must authorise written permission of classroom pets/ mascots prior to the animal's visit.
- Visiting animals to the school will be supervised and under the owner's control
- Class teachers will notify parents of any upcoming events that involve animals in contact with their class students.
- The school is responsible for assisting students to develop a respect for animals and to understand the ethical issues involved in the use of animals.
- The school must gain approval from the Victorian Schools Animal Ethics Committee (VSAEC) if animals are used for teaching purposes. Approval is not required if animals are used as pets for environmental and personal enrichment.
- To apply for approval from VSAEC, schools can submit a request through the Approval and Reporting System at least 2 weeks before the VSAEC meets to consider applications. Please refer to the Care and Use of Animals in Victorian Schools website for meeting dates
- The school will support the 'The 3 R's';
 - Replacement:** Where possible animals should be replaced by, for example, models or ICT ^[SEP]
 - Reduction:** Use no more than the minimum number of animals however, this should not be at the expense of greater suffering of individual animals ^[SEP]
 - Refinement:** Activities must minimise handling, discomfort, distress or pain in animals
- The school will follow the guidelines set out VSAEC Raising Healthy Chickens: Guide for Schools to ensure best practice and outcomes are achieved.
- Training/Education will occur at the start of each year. 5-6 staff involved. Mel McLaren to facilitate training.

Animal Enclosures

- Any animals being kept in the enclosure or hutch, must be the same sex
- Regular cleaning roster to be maintained to ensure the safety of animals and humans
- No child will be allowed in the animal enclosure unsupervised

- Animals will be fed the appropriate food in line with local vet recommendations
- Any vet care, de-sexing etc. will be paid for out of the 'Animals' budget
- Enclosure will be cleaned once per semester, all items removed, pressure cleaned and wood shavings laid on floor.
- Each term, a general clean out will occur.
- PA will support the cleaning process financially.
- Animals to be fed the following amounts; 1 cup of vegetables per kilo per day, hay and pellets to be included in diet.
- If the temperature reaches over 25 degrees, animals will be brought inside in cages.
- Principal to organise the care of animals over weekends and holidays to ensure animal safety.
- The school will to the best of its ability meet the guidelines and expectations of the Departments Policy and Guidelines

Refer to:

<https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/AnimalCare/default.aspx>