

POLICY

POLICY 30: PETS

OVERARCHING PERSPECTIVE:

Perspective: Quality Services
Policy: Services and Programs

POLICY:

Pets are an integral part of our lives. The relationship between pets and children can be special, comforting and beneficial to child development.

If Educators choose to keep pets, they must ensure that while children are in care, they are not at risk of injury or infection caused by an animal.

SCOPE:

This document applies to all Educators, Families, Coordination Unit Staff, Volunteers and Students of Our Village Family Childcare Service.

RATIONALE:

To clarify the role of pets in Family Childcare.

PROCESS:

- Upon registration, Educators will advise the Coordination Unit of all pets kept on the premises where family day care will take place.
- If an Educator is considering buying a new pet, Coordination Unit must be advised in advance and parents of children in care must also be advised.
- There have been serious attacks on children by dogs. For this reason, dogs must be separated from children during all hours that family day care is in operation. It is the responsibility of the Educator to determine the appropriateness of the type of other pets introduced to children i.e. rabbit, cat, mouse.
- The Educator must strictly supervise the interactions between pets and the children in education and care. Children must never be left alone with a pet.
- All pets must have an appropriate area where they can be kept separate from the children while other activities and routines are taking place. The area should also be adequate for the pet's wellbeing i.e. a dog in a confined area for long periods can become stressed and aggressive.
- Pets and pet areas must be kept clean.
- All vaccinations, worming treatments and pet care must be adhered to according to veterinary advice.
- Animal feeding bowls and bedding should be inaccessible to children.
- Animal excrement must be picked up promptly in areas where children may be playing.
- Sandpits must be covered when not in use to avoid soiling by pets.
- Family Childcare children must not have contact with a sick animal.

DEFINITIONS:


REFERENCES:

Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2011
 Kidsafe Victoria <http://www.kidsafevic.com.au>

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Dealing with Infectious Diseases - 24
 (SCH) Duty of Care Policy

This box to be completed after final draft has been approved.

Issue Date:	November 2016	Previous Review(s):	Jul '10, Nov '11, Jul '15
Issue Number:	Four (4)	Next Review:	November 2019
Owner:	Manager, Family Day Care	Signed in accordance with Deed of Delegation: 1/12/2016  <hr/> Marcus Bosch General Manager, Child, Youth & Family Services Signed by: Marcus Bosch	