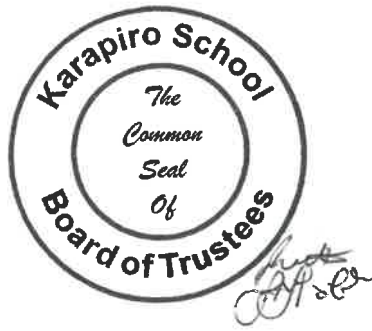


Karapiro School

Animal Welfare Policy



RATIONALE:

Karapiro School recognises that under the Animal Protection Act 1987 it is required to have a policy relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under its care.

PURPOSES:

1. To encourage through example, the proper care of living things within the school situation (see "Science in the NZ Curriculum", Living World section: Achievement Objectives 3 & 4).
2. To provide experiences for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
3. To ensure that the care and welfare of animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
4. To educate students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care, welfare and the responsibilities involved.
5. To maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

GUIDELINES:

1. "Animal" is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as spiders, snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal is not to be kept in school.
4. Creatures kept in classrooms as pets must be housed and fed properly. Frequent cleaning of cages should occur and the person responsible for this task must do so in a well ventilated area and wash their hands thoroughly following the procedure. Veterinary advice will be taken when necessary.
5. Creatures kept in classrooms for topic observation must be housed and fed properly, and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
6. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care in the school is guaranteed.
7. Animals found unjustifiably on school grounds, are to be dealt with by staff only, as follows:
 - (a) **Identifiable** – Owner will be notified for removal and advised of the following: If incident re-occurs, the Waikato District Council Animal Control Office will be contacted for retrieval and owner shall bear the cost.
 - (b) **Non-Identifiable/Wild** - The Waipa District Council Animal Control Officer will be contacted for removal, or in the case of a wild animal if the B.O.T. is unable to address the problem.

(c) **Dogs are Prohibited on School Grounds** – Exceptions to this may include dogs under the control of; the owner for specific school events, a security guard, the NZ Police, a guide dogs.

8. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board.

9. At all times this policy operates within the laws of New Zealand relating to the protection of native and/or endangered animals.

The following freedoms apply:

Freedom 1: Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.

Freedom 2: Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, and be ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.

Freedom 3: Animals must be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals must be treated, and must not be kept at school.

Freedom 4: Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.

Freedom 5: Animals must be able to express normal behaviour.

(Relevant Legislation – Animal Protection Act 1987).

Resources: Waipa District Council Animal Control Office
SPCA
Workbook for B.O.T.'s

Chairperson 

Date 19/6/2017

Principal 

Date 19/6/2017

Review Date: 2020

