



Policy Category: WHS	
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Reviewed by: Principal	Endorsed by: Board
Approved by: Amica Gordon	Date: 5 April 2022
Signature: 	
Recommended frequency of review: 1 year for new policies, and then at least every 3 years unless otherwise approved by the Executive Team. Next review: 2025	
Related Legislation and Documents: <i>Northern Territory Animal Welfare Act (1999)</i> Disability Discrimination Act (Cwlth) 1992 Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 (NT)	
Additional Information:	

Document history:

Version	Date	Nature of Amendment
1	14/5/2021	
2	18/2/2022	Scheduled review according to Policy Development and Review Policy, no changes made.

Animals

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DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

MSSA: Milkwood Steiner School Association

Animal: a live member of any vertebrate species including an amphibian, bird, mammal (other than a human being) or reptile. Animal includes live fish, worms, insects or other sentient beings in captivity or dependent on a person for food and life.

Defined animal free area: is an area of a school, or school grounds, where animals, including pets are excluded, with the exception of service animals used by people with disabilities. Defined animal free areas will be determined by the principal in consultation with the school community, but will usually include eating areas and most indoor areas of the school. Defined animal free areas should be clearly marked with appropriate signage and/or fencing.

Service animal: is an animal used as a companion to compensate for a physical impairment such as sight, hearing or mobility.

PURPOSE

All living beings are worthy of care and respect. At Milkwood Steiner School, respectful contact with animals is encouraged for its educational, spiritual and cultural merits, and social, emotional, physical and psychological wellbeing benefits. This is encouraged in ways that must not compromise the quality of life, dignity and wellbeing of animals.

POLICY STATEMENT

Animals are to be treated humanely at all times.

This includes animals that may be deemed pests.

Animals may be brought to school with prior approval from the Principal.

Service animals used by people with disabilities are exempt from a requirement of prior approval unless the Principal holds reasonable grounds for suspecting that the animal is untrained or has not been accredited, is unhygienic or unsafe, has an infectious disease or presents a threat to health and safety. In this case, evidence of training, accreditation, health and safety may be required.

The Principal will consider student and staff medical conditions, work health and safety risks, animal welfare prior to allowing animals at Milkwood Steiner School. Considerations may include

- Limiting the risk of unauthorised animals entering school premises

- Managing stray animals and wildlife on school grounds
- Where required, determining defined animal-free areas within the school
- Accommodating cultural beliefs within the school community
- The resources of the school to provide adequate care for animals on site at all times, including funding, facilities, security and human resources
- The safety of the animal in emergency situations such as vandalism, flooding, cyclones, fires
- Protection of native wildlife
- Care for the school grounds and property

Dissection of animals is prohibited.

Approval of an animal on site includes the delegation of a **Responsible Person**. Examples include: The kindergarten teacher is the responsible person for the kindergarten chickens.

The Responsible Person is responsible for

- monitoring the ongoing wellbeing of the animal and reporting concerns to the Principal
- facilitating access to vet care or other care needs arising
- ensuring arrangements are in place for the daily care of animals including weekends and holidays

The Principal is responsible for

- Approving the use of animals in educational programs and on site
- ensuring the school community is aware that animals may only be brought to school with the prior approval of the Principal.

If someone believes their assistance animal has been wrongfully refused entry, they may contact the Principal or the Board, guided by the Communication Policy (Grievance).