

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

**NAG 6
NO. 603**

Purpose

The school recognises it is required to have a code of ethical conduct relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under its care in accordance with the Animal Protection Act 1987.

Guidelines

1. Animal is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles and must be treated with care and kindness.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms and insects must also be treated with the same level of care and kindness.
3. Where an appropriate level of care cannot be provided, the animals should not be kept at school.
4. Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly, and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
5. Creatures captures on field trips must be returned to the habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care in school can be guaranteed.
6. The welfare of the animals rests with the teacher and/or staff member involved, but ultimately the responsibility lies with the Principal and Board of Trustees. The following freedoms apply:
 - Animals must have appropriate diet, access to water and provision must be made for care at weekends and holidays.
 - Animals must have cages / containers of an appropriate size, be ventilated and hygienic. They must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.
 - Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated and should not be kept at school.
 - Animals must be handled / kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.
 - Animals should be able to express normal behaviour.
 - Disposal of any deceased animals must be done with consideration to the sensitivities of culture and children.
7. Risk to classroom children's health or feelings should be considered prior to consenting to an animal coming into the classroom.