



# Wesley Out of School Hours Care policy

## Management of Animals

### 1. Purpose

Wesley Out of School Hours Care (Wesley OOSH) will provide children with an opportunity to be engaged with animals within its services, providing them with a great source of enjoyment and stimulation. Children will be encouraged to develop their skills in caring for others and appreciation of the natural environment.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to the staff, clients and visitors of Wesley OOSH.

#### National Quality Standard

<b>QA1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	The educational program enhances each child's learning and development
	<b>1.2</b>	Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development
<b>QA2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	Each child's health is promoted

#### My Time, Our Place

<b>LO1</b>	Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect
<b>LO4</b>	Children develop dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

### 3. Policy statement

Wesley OOSH Educators will ensure that risks are minimised while including pets and other animals in the service program by strict supervision. Animals will be treated humanely and with respect.

### 4. Principles

Wesley OOSH, in consultation with the school, will make a decision as to whether or not a pet (e.g. fish) will be of value to the children. The Nominated Supervisor will make a decision in relation to any animal visits to the service. Families will be informed of the benefits and potential risks associated with animals in the service and procedures relating to animals and children. Parents of children whose immunity is compromised, or who have allergies and asthma, will be consulted for special considerations.

#### Educators in Wesley OOSH services will:

- Complete a risk assessment to identify the risks and the strategies to prevent the risks prior to any visit by animals to the service. All staff are to read the risk assessment prior to the visit
- Always maintain adequate supervision of children and animals
- Wash hands after contact with animals, feeding or spending time in animal environments



- Ensure animals are in enclosed cages or under appropriate restraint
- Ensure animals do not roam, fly free, or have contact with wild animals/birds
- Prepare a specific area for contact with animals
- Not allow food in animal contact areas; do not allow animals in areas where food and drink are prepared or consumed
- Clean and disinfect all areas where animals have been present
- Do not clean animal cages or enclosures in sinks or other areas used to prepare food and drinks
- Obtain appropriate veterinary care, if and when necessary and ensure the animals are kept immunised, clean and free of intestinal parasites, fleas, ticks, mites, and lice
- Ensure any bedding, toys, litter trays, food feeding containers or water containers used by animals is inaccessible to children
- Prepare a weekly roster to ensure the animal is appropriately fed and cared for
- Ensure that measures are in place for the care of animals over the weekend, public holidays, school development days and during Vacation care - particularly if the service does not operate on these days. In this instance, it may be necessary for a staff member to take the animal home with them, or alternatively a family enrolled at the service may agree to care for the animal on these days
- Remind children about the hygiene practices required for handling an animal and ensure the practices are followed
- Follow the service's policies in relation to risk management, child safe environment and/or any incidents or injuries sustained as a result of an interaction with an animal

### **Minimising risk to health and safety**

Wesley OOSH Educators will take the following preventative measures to minimise risk to health and safety from contact with animals:

- Before including animals in the service, a Vet will check if they are ill, or thought to be ill
- Consider if any children/staff have allergies to animals prior to the visit. Implement strategies to minimise the risks associated
- All children will be supervised when they have contact with animals. Children will be discouraged from putting their face close to animals or playing with animals while animals are eating
- Animals will be prevented from contaminating sandpits, soil, pot plants and vegetable gardens
- Gloves will be worn when handling animal faeces, emptying litter trays and cleaning cages
- Disposal of animal faeces and litter will be performed daily. Faeces and litter will be placed in a plastic bag, sealed and put in the garbage
- Any pregnant staff members will be advised to avoid contact with cat faeces
- If the animal is a bird, the floor of the cage will be wet before cleaning to avoid inhalation of dry bird faeces
- Any wild or dangerous animals will be avoided
- Children and educators will wash their hands after touching animals and cleaning their cage/litter trays
- If someone is scratched or bitten by a bat, the wound will be immediately cleaned with soap and running water for 5 minutes and a doctor or a public health unit will be contacted
- If an injury caused by a fish, or a wound contaminated by sea, pond, or aquarium water, becomes infected, a doctor will be contacted and an explanation for how the injury occurred given
- Animals, their bedding and their immediate environment will be treated to destroy adult and immature fleas



## **5. Responsibility and policy owner**

The policy owner is the General Manager, Wesley Health, Conferences and Education. The owner is responsible for implementing the policy and achieving the desired outcomes. Wesley Out of Hours School Care staff shall adhere to this policy.

## **6. Consultation & Approval**

This policy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including families and the community, the Head of Wesley OOSH, Area Manager/s, Wesley OOSH, Centre Coordinators, Wesley OOSH and the Quality, Risk and Compliance Coordinator, Wesley OOSH.

This policy has been approved by General Manager, Wesley Health, Conferences and Education.