



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

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

My Time, Our Place

LO1	Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect
LO4	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 Management Team in consultation with the School Principal will make a decision to keep a pet based on the observed need or value to the children. The Area Coordinator will make a decision in relation to any animal visits at the service. Families will be informed of the benefits and potential risks associated with animals in the service and procedures related to pets and children. Relevant parents of children whose immunity is compromised, or who have allergies and asthma, will be consulted for special considerations.

Educators in Wesley OOSH Care services will:

- Wash hands after contact with animals, feeding or spending time in animal environments.
- Supervise human-animal contact, particularly involving the younger children.
- Display animals in enclosed cages or under appropriate restraints.



- Not allow animals to 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. Children should only perform this task under adult supervision.
- 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 a procedure is in place for the care of animals over the weekend, public holidays, and school development days and/or 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.
- Maintain adequate supervision of the children and animals at all times .
- 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
- 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 out with the garbage.
- Every pregnant staff member 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 the Program Manager, Wesley OOSH, Senior Coordinator, Wesley OOSH, Area Coordinator/s, Wesley OOSH, Centre Coordinator/s, Wesley OOSH & the Quality, Risk and Compliance Specialist, Wesley Conferences and Recreation.

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