

Animal Welfare

Guidelines and Procedures

In any class activity involving animals, the care and welfare of the animals must be paramount.

At West Park School:

- Animals are to be kept in appropriate surroundings with appropriate care.
- Animals may be kept in classrooms for the purpose of a specific study.
 - If this study involves tests and research then the animal's welfare must not be compromised.
 - If the animal/s is/are to be used and manipulated then the activities must be cleared by the Animal Ethics Committee, Science Department, Wellington College of Education/ Victoria University.
- Animals purchased by staff are the staff members' responsibility. Any medical bills the animal may incur are the responsibility of the staff member.
- Proper supervision must be made for the care of animals during weekends and school holidays.
- Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care in school can be guaranteed.
- The following freedoms apply:
 - Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and holidays.
 - Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, that are ventilated and hygienic. Animals 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.

Note:

"Animal" is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles. For the purposes of this policy, it is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms, and insects shall be regarded as animals, and must also be treated with care and kindness.

Reviewed: SEPTEMBER 2020