

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

RATIONALE

Kamo Primary School recognises that under the Animal Protection Act 1987 it is required to have a Code of Ethical Conduct relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under it’s care.

PURPOSE

1. To ensure through example the proper care of living things within the school situation (See Science in the New Zealand Curriculum”, Living World Section: Achievement Objectives 3 and 4)
2. To provide experiences for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
3. To ensure that the care and welfare of animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
4. To educate students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care, welfare and the responsibilities involved.

GUIDELINES

ANIMAL CODE OF ETHICS

1. “Animal” is defined as any living creature with backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as spiders, snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal is not to be kept in 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 captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area.
6. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board.

The following freedoms apply

Freedom 1: Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water.

Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.

Freedom 2: Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size and be ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.

Freedom 3: Animals must be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals must be treated, and must not be kept at school.

Freedom 4: Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.

Freedom 5: Animals must be able to express normal behaviour.

* Where any activity is planned which may cause distress or suffering to the animal, approval must be obtained from an Animal Ethics Committee. A record must be kept of procedures followed as set out in the Act (See E.R.O. Handbook, 1994 Pages A72R5)

* Contact an Animal Ethics Committee through Adviser in Science or the local Ministry of Agriculture.

* Information can also be obtained from Animal Welfare and Environment section of MAF (04) 4744129 or by Fax (04) 4744133

Reviewed: Term 3 2016

.....Chairperson, BOT

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