

4:5 ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

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RATIONALE

- Animals and wildlife being kept in ECE centres are given respect and attention to ensure that their needs are met.
- To ensure that animals kept in the centre are adequately housed, fed and cleaned.
- To promote children's understanding and experience in caring for pets.

PROCEDURES

Let's Grow will only keep pets that can be adequately housed or restrained.

Birds, fish and animals will be appropriately housed for the size and needs of the animal, and the environment will provide for stimulation. Where the bird or animal is naturally sociable (such as budgies) these should be kept in pairs.

Staff will ensure that animals are regularly fed, watered and cleaned as required. Where necessary staff will be designated or rostered to complete these tasks.

Staff will encourage children to consider animal welfare and will always involve children in animal care-taking tasks. Staff will ensure that children wash their hands after handling animals.

Staff will ensure that animals are not subject to undue stress by over-handling, excessive heat or cold, or exposure to persistent high noise levels. Where the animal is able to be handled by children, this should ideally always take place in one to one situations, well supervised by an adult.

If a pet is sick then appropriate medical advice needs to be sought.

Animals that are not able to be caged will not be kept in the centre (such as cats and dogs) but may be brought into the centre for short visits from time to time as part of the planned programme (so long as there is a suitable area to house them after the children have finished handling them)

Staff will make appropriate arrangement for the care of centre pets during weekends or holidays. This may include allowing children to take the pet home for a designated period.