

Animal Welfare Policy

RATIONALE

To ensure the health and safety of each animal and creature kept at Fingerprints Christian Preschool and they are kept in a way that does not pose a health risk to children.

PRACTICE

Fingerprints is committed to caring for the animals it purchases or inherits in accordance with the guidance given by the Ministry of Education on its website http://www.tki.org.nz/r/science/caring_for_animals/animal_care/index_e.php

Teachers will refer to the guidance given on this website to purchase adequate habitats, maintain these and care for and feed animals that we either purchase or inherit.

The Centre is committed to seeking necessary professional advice and services in regards to ensuring the health and well being of its animals.

Should the staff team no longer believe the Centre can adequately care for its animals an appropriate home will be found.

When the centre is closed for a period of time, appropriate care will be provided for the animals in the centre. Staff will provide necessary instructions and resources for any of the children's family/whānau who might choose to look after any animals temporarily.

Visits of pets to the centre must first be approved by the Centre Director or Senior teacher. The Centre Director or the senior teacher will take the time to explain behaviour and expectations of the centre and will need to feel that the team and the children will feel comfortable, confident and safe around that animal. If it is a dog then it is to be on a lead and be under control at all times. The Centre Director or senior teacher can use their discretion if they feel the animal is posing a risk to our children. All Covid restrictions/ H&S guidelines from MOH will be followed, using up to date information at the time.

Adults and children that handle animals will wash their hands afterwards.

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Animal Welfare Act 1999

Education (Early Childhood) Regulations 2008 Reg 46, HS16

Approved by:

Centre Director : *Hilary Henderson*

Date: January 2024

Service Provider

Contact Person: *Aaron Donaldson*

Date: January 2024

Reviewed: January 2024

To be reviewed: January 2026

- 1 Is this policy working?
- 2 Does it match our practice?
- 3 Is it supported by research?