

ANIMAL CODE OF ETHICS POLICY

School Vision: Developing the Character of God - Academic Excellence

Rationale

Because God has given man stewardship to rule over and respect the creatures of His creation, our 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 its care.

Purposes

1. To encourage through example the proper care of living things within the school situation.
2. To provide experiences for children 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 children through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved.

Guidelines

1. "Animal" is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal should not be kept in the 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 unless their proper care in school can be guaranteed.
6. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees.

The following freedoms apply:

1. Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.
2. Animals must have cages or containers of an appropriate size, which are ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise draught or sunlight.
3. Animals must be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals must be treated and must not be kept at school.
4. Animals must be handled or kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.

Animals must be able to express normal behaviour.

1. Where an 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.
2. Contact an animal Ethics Committee through the Adviser in Science or the local Ministry of Agriculture
3. Information can also be obtained from Animal Welfare and Environment section of Ministry of Primary Industries. www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare

FORMULATED BY: Rotorua Seventh-Day Adventist School Board of Trustees

APPROVED: Board Chair, Maraea Van Gent _____

BOT REVIEWED: 1 August 2018
24 August 2016
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