

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

Purpose

- a. To encourage through example the proper care of living things within the College.
- b. To provide experience for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
- c. 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.
- d. To educate students 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, reptiles and mud crabs.
- 2. It is generally accepted that other living creature such as snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
- 3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animals should not be kept in the college. Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
- 4. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care in the college can be guaranteed.
- 5. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher/staff member involved but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees. The following freedoms apply:
 - i. Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and holidays.
 - ii. Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, be ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, drought or sunlight.
 - iii. Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated and should not be kept at the college.
 - iv. Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that stress or fear is kept to a minimum.
 - v. Animals should be able to express normal behaviour.

Where any activity is planned involving animals as listed in Item 1. of the Guidelines, approval must be obtained from the NZASE (New Zealand Association of Science Educators). A record must be kept of procedures followed as set out in the Act. NZASE Administrators may be contacted via email to nzase@confer.co.nz.

This policy is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the Privacy Act, 1993.

New/Reviewed	Tabled	Adopted	Signed
New policy	1/5/18	5/6/18	By Robyn van der Sande, Chairperson