

HEALTH & SAFETY - ANIMALS

POLICY

It is recognised that Educators may have domestic and farm animals in and around their home.

Animals can be unpredictable and can cause severe injury to children so appropriate enclosures will be always used or available. When family day care children have access to animals, the educator will closely supervise and always have the animal under their direct control. Animals will be maintained in a hygienic condition and enclosures will also be hygienically maintained. This is necessary for the health and safety of children.

PROCEDURE

1. Educators must ensure that any animal, bird, reptile or other species kept at the home is in a clean and healthy condition and regularly wormed as appropriate for the species.
2. Educators must ensure that any animal or bird kept on the premises does not constitute a health or safety risk to children. Cages and litter trays must be inaccessible to children and regularly cleaned.
3. Dogs must be kept in a fully enclosed, finger proof area inaccessible to children during family day care hours.
4. Educators must have an area where animals' feed and water containers can be kept separate from children.
5. Any animal that constitutes a risk to young children shall be kept separated from the children and from the family day care environment. Children having contact with any animal including baby lambs, chickens etc will be closely supervised for the safety of both children and animals. When family day care children have access to any animal, the educator will closely supervise and have direct control of the animal. Educators may contact the Coordination Unit if clarification is required.