

# MAHANA SCHOOL PROCEDURE

## ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

### Rationale:

There are times when we have animals at school to support class programmes. We have a responsibility to make sure they are well cared for.

### Purposes:

- To ensure the animals are not distressed.
- To see that they are secure so that they do not escape or run off.
- To place them in pleasant surroundings.
- To see that their needs are being met.
- To protect children and other animals at school.

### Guidelines:

- It is the pet owner's responsibility to ensure that the animal has sufficient amounts of the correct food, is fed at the usual times, and has enough for its needs at school.
- The owner must provide a drinking container and see that there is sufficient fresh water available at all times.
- It is the owner's responsibility to get the animal safely to school and see that arrangements have been made to get the animal home again.
- Animals will need to have shelter from the weather elements, and other animals, and also a place to rest.
- The owners will regularly check their pets to see that their needs are being met.
- The owner must ensure that their pet is not being handled unnecessarily.
- It is the owner's responsibility to see that the animal has suitable toileting facilities, and to clean up after the animal.
- Animals must not be brought to school without the prior consent of the classroom teacher.
- If an animal becomes ill, hurt or distressed, it must be given suitable help immediately. The owner must report to the teacher in charge. Parents must be available to immediately collect the animal and return it home.
- If the child is responsible for the animal at school [i.e. there is no parent on hand] the child must be able to keep the animal in control so that other children are not threatened.
- Other children are not to approach, handle or pet animals without permission from the teacher or the owner.
- Only animals that are in good health and currently vaccinated can be brought to school.
- Aggressive animals, or animals that MAY attack or injure children or other pets must not be brought to school.
- All dogs must be on leads.
- Animals kept at school as class pets, must be well cared for in all respects. This is a teacher responsibility. Attention must be given to holiday care arrangements.

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