



Animals in the Centre Policy

Enquires to:	Centre Manager, Board of Trustees
Applies to:	All tamariki, parents, guardians, Kaiako and relievers.
Date Developed:	July 2021
Date Approved:	July 2021
Review Date:	May 2024
Next Review Date:	May 2027

Reference; MOE Licensing Criteria for ECE Centres, 2008, , HS16, Te Whāriki – Exploration Goal 4, Tamariki experience an environment where they develop working theories for making sense of the natural, social, physical and material worlds.

RATIONALE:

At Lower Hutt City Childcare Centre, we consider animals to be an important part of the daily experiences we provide for our tamariki.

If and when we have animals at the centre, tamariki are able to develop respect and a sense of responsibility in caring for the animals at LHCCC, the well-being of any animals in the care of Lower Hutt City Childcare is of paramount importance to their inclusion in our programme.

PROCEDURES: (in the event of having an animal permanently at the centre)

- Food and water supply for all animals will be checked daily. Tamariki will be encouraged to take part in this caring routine.
- Kaiako role-model responsibility and care of the pets. This helps tamariki to learn the skills of caring for the animals, themselves and others.
- Where appropriate, animals will be taken out of their cage and given the opportunity to move around several times a week. This will be done in a respectful manner to protect the emotional well-being of the animal.
- Kaiako will be responsible for the weekly cleaning of any animal environments. Animals will not become a health hazard for the tamariki.
- Tamariki experience hands on care and touch as the animals are brought into the centre environment regularly.
- Tamariki’s hygiene standards will not be compromised; tamariki will be supervised for appropriate hand washing after contact with animals.

Parents/whānau to inform Kaiako of any allergies their tamariki may have if their child comes into contact with animals etc. with phone call and if required, follow their allergy plan held at the centre.

In the event of domestic animals visiting the centre, parents/whānau will be notified prior to the scheduled visit. This will be via Educa or separate notice and placed in the parent’s pocket. Most domestic animals are welcome to visit under controlled circumstances. For example, dogs may need to be placed on leads.

Board of Trustees consulted	Yes/No	Kaiako consulted	Yes/No
Parents consulted	Yes/No		
Approved by _____	Designation _____	Date _____	