



Guidelines for Pets at Playcentre

August 2011

Bringing a pet to visit Playcentre

Visits from pets should preferably be planned because, depending on such circumstances as the type of pet and the duration of stay, the animal may need water, shelter, food, and/or a secure place away from children where it can be kept when it is not needed during the day.

Playcentre pets

If keeping an animal at Playcentre as a pet and/or for observational purposes, the Centre should:

- make prior arrangements about long-term care before any animal is obtained
- provide proper care and facilities
- provide for adequate weekend and holiday care.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 governs the welfare of animals in New Zealand.

The Act requires 'owners of animals, and persons in charge of animals, to attend properly to the welfare of those animals'.

This can be done by ensuring that an animal's physical, health, and behavioural needs are met by:

- providing it with proper and sufficient food and water
- providing it with adequate shelter
- providing it with the opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- handling it physically in a manner that minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- protecting it from and rapidly diagnosing any significant injury or disease.

Adapted from - http://www.tki.org.nz/r/science/caring_for_animals/index_e.php

Hygiene and care

Children should always wash their hands before and after touching an animal.

The Centre should establish a cleaning and feeding roster should be created to ensure the animal is well cared for and healthy. This should include:

- How and when the animal's litter/bedding/cage/tank will be cleaned.
- How and where the litter/bedding material will be disposed of, taking into considering hygiene. The wearing of disposable gloves for cleaning.
- How and where food will be stored, out of children's reach.
- Who will be responsible for feeding the animal, how regularly.
- How will the pet be cared for over holidays and weekends.

Approved at the Association meeting August 2011

Review Date - 2014