



Animal Ethics Policy

Aims

- A. To comply with animal welfare guidelines for schools.
- B. To expose students to a wide variety of learning experiences.
- C. To care for animals kept at school:
 - 1. as pets
 - 2. for the purpose of achieving a specific educational aim.

Scope and Application

This policy is available on the school website. It applies to:

- A. Employees
- B. Students

Definitions

- A. **Animal** - any live non-human vertebrate (that is, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals encompassing domestic animals, purpose-bred animals, livestock, wildlife) and cephalopods.
- B. **SAEC** - Schools Animal Ethics Committee.
- C. **The Code** - Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.
- D. **Scientific Purposes** - as defined by the Animal Welfare Act 2002, means acquiring, developing, or demonstrating knowledge of techniques in a scientific discipline and includes teaching.

Principles

- A. We see value in contact with animals as a learning experience. We believe keeping pets is a learning experience, and from time to time we bring animals into the school to achieve a specific educational aim. For example, hatching chicken eggs and studying their growth, keeping yabbies as part of a pond life project, or bringing in animals to sketch for an art project.
- B. Schools need to comply with the *Animal Welfare Act (2002)* and the *National Health and Medical Research Council's Code for the care and use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2013, 8th Edition)*.

- C. *The Animal Welfare Act* requires that all use of animals for scientific purposes must be first approved by a properly constituted Animal Ethics Committee. Teaching is deemed to be a scientific purpose.
- D. SAEC is the nominated animal ethics committee for AISWA member schools. Applications for a license to use animals for scientific purposes (including teaching) and reporting will be made to SAEC.
- E. Respect for animals must underpin all decisions and actions involving the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. At all times we comply with the requirements of the *Australian Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*, in ethics and in deed.

Responsibilities

A. Board

1. Overseeing implementation of this policy.
2. Review of policy and procedures.

B. Principal

1. Applying for a license for the use of animals.
2. Ensuring submissions for the use of animals as part of the educational program are submitted by teachers within the correct timeframes.
3. Ensuring that teachers adhere to the requirements of the Schools Animal Ethics Committee (SAEC) which, in turn, ensures compliance with the *Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*.
4. Preparing the Annual Report and providing it to SAEC.

C. Teaching Staff

1. Submitting a proposal for the use of animals as part of their educational program as per SAEC guidelines and AISWA user manual (see reference), prior to due date.
2. Provide justification for the use of animals.
3. Responsibility for, and overseeing, projects involving animals at school and ensuring SAEC guidelines are followed at all times.
4. Developing and maintaining all records required.
5. Directing students in the care and treatment of animals at school.
6. Completing an Activity Completion Report 14 days prior to the end of the activity.

D. Students

1. Caring and treating all animals at school with respect, as directed by teachers.

Related Legislation

- A. Animal Welfare Act 2002
- B. School Education Act 1999

Related Kerry Street Documentation

- A. Procedures and Forms including:
 - 1. Animal Ethics Procedure
- B. Policies including:
 - 1. Curriculum Policy
 - 2. Records Management Policy
 - 3. WHS Policy
- C. License to Use Animals for Scientific Purposes

References

- A. DET School Animal Ethics Committee Guidelines for the care and use of animals in Western Australian schools available at <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/animalethics/detcms/portal/>
- B. [National Health and Medical Research Council's Code for the care and use of Animals for Scientific Purposes \(2013, 8th Edition\).](#)
- C. AISWA Animal Ethics Management System [USER MANUAL.](#)
- D. [SAEC Online reporting system.](#)

Contact Person

Enquiries relating to this policy should be directed to the School Principal or Board Chair.

Breaches of this Policy

Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Authorisation and Review

- A. This policy was read, discussed, and authorised by the Kerry Street Community School Council on 12/1/05
- B. Reviewed on 13/1/06 by meeting of staff and council
- C. Reviewed by Council and Coordinator March 2015
- D. Reviewed and Accepted June 2017
- E. To be reviewed S2 2021
- F. Reviewed May 2021
- G. To be reviewed S1 2024

Revision History

Date	Revision	Detail
22/04/2017	V.1	Additions of missing Text, formatting, branding and revision history.

28/06/2017	V.1.2	Name changed from USE OF ANIMALS to ANIMAL ETHICS. Policy and procedure separated.
January 2021	V.1.3	Formatted.
May 2021	V.2	Reviewed. Procedures updated to include online reporting requirements.