

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL**ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY****RATIONALE**

Teachers sometimes choose to keep animals in classrooms as pets or to bring animals in for visits. It is important that pupils receive proper role modelling regarding their care.

PURPOSE

To ensure that animals in classrooms are treated according to SPCA standards.

GUIDELINES

1. Animals (birds, fish and small animals such as mice and rats) may be kept in classrooms as pets provided:
 - a. they are housed in a safe and clean environment;
 - b. they are provided with suitable food and water;
 - c. they are given proper care during weekend and holiday periods;
 - d. they are not stressed through overhandling or inappropriate handling.
2. Animals brought to school for special occasions, such as pet shows or to show a class, must be treated with care and not be stressed by inappropriate handling.
3. On field trips to the beach, bush or other areas, animals may be observed but may not be removed.
4. Children should always be encouraged to observe creatures carefully in the creature's natural habitat rather than capturing and confining spiders, insects and other creatures in containers and bringing them to school.
5. Teachers will role model care for the environment and for the creatures that are part of it.
6. Wandering dogs found in the school grounds may be reported to Auckland City Council Animal Control.

Adopted as Policy 20 June 2007

Reviewed 11 August 2010

Reviewed 28 August 2013

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY