

## **OKAIHAU COLLEGE POLICY: Animal Code of Ethics**

---

### **RATIONALE:**

Okaihau College recognises that under the Animal Protection Act 1987 it is required to have a Code of Ethical Conduct relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under its care.

### **GOALS:**

- To encourage through example the proper care of living things within the school situation.
- To provide experiences for children to observe, handle, and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
- To ensure that the care and welfare of animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
- To educate children through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved.

### **GUIDELINES:**

- Animal is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
- It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
- If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animals should not be kept in school.
- Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly, and returned to their natural habitat on completion of study.
- Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care in school can be guaranteed.
- Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees.
- The following freedoms apply –
  - a) Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.
  - b) Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size and be ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.
  - c) Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated, and should not be kept at school.
  - d) Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.
  - e) Animals should be able to express normal behaviour