

RIDGEVIEW SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY



ANIMAL CARE

National Administration Guideline 5 – Health and Finance

Background to Policy

Ridgeview School recognises its legal obligations to those species defined as "animals" under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and its moral responsibilities with regard to other invertebrate animals studied or kept at school.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of Ridge View School to take all practicable steps to ensure the safety of all animals at Ridgeview School.

Policy Implementation

In implementing the policy on Animal Care, the Board will take appropriate action to ensure that Ridgeview School will:

- Encourage, through example, the proper care of living things within the school situation
- Provide opportunities for children/students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in humane ways.
- Ensure that, in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip, the welfare of the animal is given high priority.
- Educate children/students by example and discussion about the importance of caring for animals and the responsibilities this involves.

Guidelines

- 1) The day-to-day care of all vertebrates, and some invertebrates, in the care of people and/or used in experiments and teaching will be governed by the Animal Welfare Act 1999
- 2) All living creatures at Ridgeview School will be treated with care and respect.
- 3) Responsibility for the welfare of animals kept at school rests with the teacher involved and, ultimately with the Principal and the Board of Trustees.
- 4) Animals kept at school will be provided with their five basic needs:
 - a) Freedom from malnutrition
 - b) Freedom from discomfort and lack of shelter
 - c) Freedom from injury, disease, infestation
 - d) Freedom from distress through improper handling
 - e) Freedom to display their normal patterns of behaviour.
- 5) In the case of classroom pets, prior arrangements about long term care (including holiday care) will be made before any animals are kept at school.
- 6) Native animals will not be kept at RidgeView School in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953.

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This policy will be reviewed as per the Board's Effectiveness Review Programme

Confirmed by the Board of Trustees on : _____ (date)

The planned review date will be: _____ (date)

Chairperson

Principal