



POLICY: Rangitikei College Board of Trustees

Caring for Animals Policy

Rationale

Rangitikei College 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 in Rangitikei College.

Aims:

The aim of this policy is to:

- encourage, through example, the proper care of living things within the college,
- provide opportunities for 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 students by example and discussion about the importance of caring for animals and the responsibilities this involves,
- only use animals when no other alternative is available in meeting the requirements of the Achievement Objectives, Level 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 of the New Zealand Curriculum (Science).

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 Rangitikei College will be treated with care and respect.
 3. Responsibility for the welfare of animals in the college rests with the Head of Department, the teacher involved and, ultimately, with the Principal and the Board of Trustees.
 4. Animals kept at Rangitikei College will be provided with the following (sometimes expressed as the 'five freedoms'):
- a. Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition (including during weekends and holidays).
 - b. Freedom from discomfort and lack of shelter (by being provided with appropriate cages or containers that are properly ventilated and hygienic and do not allow exposure to extremes of noise, draughts, and sunlight).
 - c. Freedom from injury, disease, and parasite infestation (by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment). Diseased or severely injured animals will be treated promptly and will not

be kept at Rangitikei College until they have recovered. If this is not feasible, they will be humanely destroyed.

- d. Freedom from distress (through proper care and handling).
 - e. Freedom to display their normal patterns of behaviour.
5. If appropriate care and facilities cannot be provided, animals will not be kept at the college.
 6. Animals kept at school will be kept in accordance with the conditions, relevant to the particular species, outlined in Section 3 of *Caring for Animals*, 2012. Species not covered by this section will not be kept/will be kept only if when approval in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953 has been given, including a permit from the Department of Conservation if required. (See TKI Online: *Caring for Animals* for details of care required.).
 7. In the case of classroom or teacher-owned 'pets', prior permission must be gained from the Principal before being brought on site. The following will be considered before approval is given:
 - a. The risk of the animal suffering distress by being within a school environment.
 - b. The risk of injury, disease or distress to any student, staff member or visitor as a result of the animal being on-site.
 - c. Arrangements about long-term care (including holiday care) will be made before any animals are kept at the school.
 - d. When the animal is no longer required or is no longer able to be kept, appropriate arrangements will be made to return it to its natural habitat (in the case of a wild animal) or to find a suitable home for it. Non-native classroom pets will not be released into the wild. If appropriate arrangements cannot be made, the animal will be humanely destroyed by a veterinarian.
 8. When animals are used for a specific study, the surviving animals will be returned to their natural habitat or home at the end of the study.
 9. Animals captured on field trips will be returned to their habitat before students leave the area unless their proper care in the college has been prearranged and approved and meets the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
 10. Native animals will be kept only if immediate care is required to save the animal's life in consultation with veterinarian or when approval in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953 has been given, including a permit from the Department of Conservation if required.
 11. Where the use of animals in any study (including Science Fair projects) involves a manipulation in accordance with the law, the study will be carried out with the prior approval of the NZASE Schools' Animal Ethics Committee in accordance with the NZASE *Code of Ethical Conduct for the Use of Animals* (October 2014) as approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries.
 12. Where the use of non-living animal tissue is required for teaching and learning (for example, for dissection), the products used will be sourced from a butcher, meat works or resource supplier as outlined in *Safety and Science: A Guidance Manual for New Zealand Schools*. Students will be asked prior to the event whether they wish to participate and will be able to withdraw from the activity at any time.

Chairperson:

 , _____

Date:

25.11.19

Next review date: November 2022

ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS:

-

(NB: Procedures are developed as part of school management. The Board of Trustees will be informed of the development or revision of procedures derived from Board policies by the Principal. For some especially significant procedures, these will be presented to the Board in full)