

DRURY SCHOOL: Policy 5.02 Animal Ethics

Rationale:

Under the Animal Protection Act 1987 the school is required to have a Code Of Ethical Conduct relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under its care.

Purposes:

1. To encourage through example the proper care of living things within the school situation
2. To provide experiences for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
3. To ensure that the care and welfare of animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal including Calf Club animals.
4. To educate students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care, welfare and the responsibilities involved.

Guidelines:

1. "Animal" is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as spiders, snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal is not to be kept at school.
4. Creatures kept in the classroom for observation must be housed and fed properly, and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
5. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the areas unless their proper care in the school is guaranteed.
6. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board.
7. Reference can also be made to "Safety and Science" Revised Edition (Page 31, section 3).