Animals in the Centre Policy

Policy Statement
Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten is committed to providing safe and healthy place for all children, staff and others. Also the staff are committed to promoting strong animal ethics to consider animal's welfare.

Purpose
* Providing a safe and healthy working environment for all children, staff and others with hygienic and appropriate facilities for any animals in our care.
* To minimize harm to children, staff and others by visiting animals.
* To promote animal ethics

Scope
This procedure applies to all stakeholders at the Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten

Objective
* To comply with DECD Policy- no dogs allowed on DECD sites.
* To promote good hygiene practices with animals to provide appropriate facilities for animal housing.
* To facilitate considerate behaviour towards animals, to care and nurture.

Policy Detail
* Staff will risk assess when animals are visiting on site - **puppies are only allowed on site with a responsible owner**- as a show and tell experience only.

* Farm animals are welcome and will be presented to the children outside and for a short length of time. The owner will be responsible and have good control over the animal.

* Small animals visiting for a length of time during the session must be adequately housed with appropriate facilities for the care and welfare of the animal and the safety of children.

* Planned experiences centred on life cycles of small creatures must be undertaken with appropriate care, adequate housing, food, light, warmth and respect from the children. Observation containers/aquariums with limited access unless supervised by an adult should be used.

Role and responsibilities
Staff have a duty of care to the children and their safety and minimize risk in relation to visiting animals.
Staff have a duty of care to animals that come onto the premises as part of the planned experiences.

Review
The Policy will be reviewed annually. Review 2016.

APPROVED AND CHECKED BY:

AUTHORISED:

VHCK CENTRE DIRECTOR DATE

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPS DATE