



Review Date:	March 2020
Authorised by:	WHS/Human Resources
Contacts:	Principal
Locations:	SS2/MyS/SW

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES POLICY

1. RATIONALE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that there is a process in place for the management of animals when on school premises.

This Policy seeks to:

- ensure animals do not cause any harm to persons, damage to school property, or pose a health and safety risk to employees, students and/or visitors to the school; and
- regulate the presence and management of animals on school premises and in areas where school activities are being undertaken.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees, students, contractors and visitors to Somerville House and its facilities and associated events.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 The School recognises that animals are an important part of life for many School families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school, and attending school events. The School appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, but it also acknowledges that bringing animals into a child-focussed environment carries with it the risk of physical injury to children, no matter how friendly or well-controlled those animals may be. Furthermore, having animals on the School premises creates anxiety for those children who may find contact with them frightening.
- 3.2 The School has an obligation to take all reasonable precautions to protect the safety of its employees, students, contractors and visitors. The intent of the policy is to ensure that our School premises remain clean and safe for all. Animals (other than local wildlife or School Therapy Dogs) are not permitted on School premises unless deemed appropriate by the Principal or their Delegate.
- 3.3 The policy does allow for School Therapy Dogs and animals to visit classrooms, but only for specific purposes (such as show and tell, pet days, or a small classroom pet under the care of a teacher), and only with the prior approval of the Principal or their Delegate.
- 3.4 Certified assistance animals are exempted from these provisions, and are allowed access to the School using the same guidelines as those in place in the community.

4. REFERENCES

- 4.1 References to other Policy
- Nil

4.2 Legislative and other References

- Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 – QLD
- Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009
- Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Amendment Act 2015

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal or Principal's Delegate

- Has the authority to approve animals to be brought onto School premises, other than assistance animals.

Employees

- Are to ensure this policy is complied with at all school premises and events.

6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Guidelines

- 6.1.1 Owners are requested to leave animals at home during school events, such as coaching sessions, sports day, excursions and co-curricular events.
- 6.1.2 Animals must not be tied up around the main entrances to the School premises where students may have to walk past them.
- 6.1.3 On occasion, permission to bring an animal to School must be obtained from the Principal or their Delegate at least one (1) week prior to the event. If permission is approved, guidelines for the animal visit are as follows:
- Any animals brought onto school premises (approved by the Principal or their Delegate) must be appropriately restrained at all times either by a short lead or in an enclosed compartment. Animals on a lead must be controlled at all times by a person at least 16 years of age and able to restrain the animal.
 - The animal must have a temperament suited to being around children and crowds. Those animals that have difficult temperaments and are fearful, timid or dominant should not be brought onto the School premises.
 - Owners must ensure their animals are appropriately contained and must take full responsibility for any injury caused to people and/or damage to property.
 - Hygiene of animals must be maintained at all times through:
 - appropriate cleaning of any excrement (carry plastic bags to do this) and removal of the refuse from school premises for disposal
 - keeping animals out of sandpits or other play areas (keep to paths and passageways, and out of lunch and play areas)
 - only healthy animals are allowed on school premises (to prevent cross-infection to other animals where applicable)
 - keeping animals from licking or other means of transfer of any infection.
- 6.1.4 The owners or carers of any animals on school premises must also comply with all relevant local Council regulations and / or any other statutory provision.

7. DEFINITIONS

School premises includes all School areas, buildings and facilities, including sporting fields and the Watersports facility, which are accessible by students, employees and /or members of the public. It does not include private residences owned by the School.

8. ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Version Control Table			
Version Control	Date Effective	Approved By	Amendment
1	October 2017	Principal	New Policy
2	March 2020	Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grammatical corrections• Inclusion of School Therapy Dogs