



MONTESSORI STEPPING STONES & WAABINY OSHC ANIMALS AT THE SERVICE POLICY



POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy sets out the clear guidelines needed to ensure the safety of the children and the wellbeing of animals kept at or brought into Montessori Stepping Stones' (MSS) service.

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES

- At the time of enrolment, parents are asked to inform MSS if their child has any allergies. All staff are notified and details of the allergy are stored in the child's profile on the Xplor platform which is readily accessible by all employees. Animals are kept inaccessible to children with pet allergies.
- Children are supervised at all times whilst handling animals at MSS
- Any animal or pet kept at MSS is given food and water regularly and its enclosure is kept clean
- Pet food is stored in a place inaccessible to children, as is any equipment needed to care for it
- All pet cages and containers are secured so as not to be a hazard
- Educators intentionally teach children to respect all animals and how to handle and care for them. Educators also teach children that not all animals are friendly, and to always check with an animal's owner before petting the animal
- Animals and pets are kept away from:
 - Where any child eats or rests
 - Food preparation areas
 - Children's toilet and hand washing facilities
 - Sandpits
 - Other areas that cannot be cleaned and sanitised readily (e.g. carpets)
- All persons, including children, wash their hands immediately after they have touched an animal, and children are taught the reasoning for this
- In the event of a child being scratched or bitten by an animal and the skin penetrated, the wound will be cleansed with soap and water immediately and appropriate antiseptic applied. An incident report will be completed on the Xplor platform, and the parent contacted and advised to take the child to a medical practitioner
- Children's pets can only be brought to the centre with prior permission from management. The owner remains responsible for the pet at all times it is our service
- Any pet brought to MSS other than for an approved visit must be tethered outside the premise and out of the reach of children

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