

Purpose

Pets are important in children's lives both for the enjoyment that they bring now as well as role rehearsal for future adult activities. Benefits of contact with pets have been identified in areas of child development, family harmony and even health. Having a relationship with a pet can help develop such skills as: nurturing, responsibility, empathy, caring attitude and communication.

Aim

- To provide guidelines for dogs in the school, their use, suitability and wellbeing.
- To provide students with applied learning opportunities and the companionship of an animal in the school grounds.

Implementation

The use of a dog for a learning activity at the school when students are in attendance, must meet the following requirements:

- The teachers/trainers will have accessed the DET Animal Care policies to ensure that they have met the requirements.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/practice/Pages/animalswelfare.aspx>

- Approval must be sought from the Campus Principal and Dogs for Life trainer/s before using a dog for educational purposes in the Dogs for Life program, or bringing it to the school.
- It must be deemed that a dog is necessary for the educational outcomes of the activity.
- The dog must be clean and groomed, including being free of any parasites such as fleas.
- The dog must be wormed and a photocopy of the current vaccination certificate must be provided.
- The dog must be able to demonstrate a 'novice' level of obedience, consisting of:
 - Heeling –on-lead, where the dog walks next to the owner and doesn't tug on the lead.
 - Sitting and dropping on command from the owner.
 - Standing or sitting for examination, which involves having its head, back, feet and rump touched.
 - Heeling off lead and the owner have voice only control.
 - Recalling to the owner from a distance of 20 metres.
 - Sitting, standing or dropping in a position away from the owner and not moving for a minimum of 1 minute.
- The dog must be kept in a secure location and have access to water and a comfortable resting area.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's review cycle

This policy was endorsed by the Oakwood School Council in March, 2017