

ROTORUA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY



ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL AND ANIMAL ETHICS

Rationale:

Rotorua Intermediate recognizes its legal obligations to those species defined as “animals” under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and its moral responsibilities with regard to other invertebrate animals studied or kept at school.

Goals:

- To encourage, through example, the proper care of living things within Rotorua Intermediate school situation. (see *Science in the New Zealand Curriculum, Making Sense of the Living World, achievement aims 3 and 4, page 52*).
- To provide opportunities for children/students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in humane ways.
- To ensure that, in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip, the welfare of the animal is given high priority.
- To educate children/students by example and discussion about the importance of caring for animals and the responsibilities this involves.

Guidelines:

- All living creatures at Rotorua Intermediate will be treated with care and respect.
- Responsibility for the welfare of animals in Rotorua Intermediate rests with the teacher involved and ultimately, with the Principal and the board of trustees management.
- Animals kept at Rotorua Intermediate will be provided with their five basic needs (sometimes expressed at the five freedoms):
 - Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition (including during weekends and holidays)
 - Freedom from discomfort and lack of shelter (by being provided with appropriate cages or containers that are properly ventilated and hygienic and do not allow exposure to extremes of noise, draughts and sunlight)
 - Freedom from injury, disease and parasitic infestation (by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment). Diseased or injured animals will be treated promptly and will not be kept at Rotorua Intermediate school until they have recovered. If this is not feasible, they will be humanely destroyed.
 - Ensure any animals are able to get the required physical activity needs

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- o Freedom from distress (through proper care and handling)
- o Freedom to display their normal patterns of behavior
- If appropriate care and facilities cannot be provided, animals will not be kept at Rotorua Intermediate school.
- Animals kept at Rotorua Intermediate school will be kept in accordance with the conditions and requirements relevant to the particular species, outlined in Section 3 of *Caring for Animals, 1999*. Species not covered by this section will not be kept at school. In the case of classroom pets, prior arrangements about long-term care (including holiday care) will be made before any animals are kept at Rotorua Intermediate school.
- When the animal is no longer required or is no longer able to be kept, appropriate arrangements will be made to return it to its natural habitat (in the case of a wild animal) or to find a suitable home for it. Non-native classroom pets will not be released into the wild under any circumstances. If appropriate arrangements cannot be made, the animal will be humanely destroyed by a veterinarian.
- When animals are used for a specific study, the surviving animals will be returned to their natural habitat or home at the end of the study.
- Animals captured on field trips will be returned to the habitat before students leave the area unless proper care in Rotorua Intermediate school has been prearranged.
- Native animals will not be kept at Rotorua Intermediate school. Note that under the Wildlife Act 1953, it is illegal to keep any species of native animal with a permit from the Department of Conservation.
- Where the use of animals in any study (including science fair projects) involves a manipulation in accordance with the law, the study will be carried out in accordance with a code of ethical conduct approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries and with the approval of the Principal (see *Ethical approval to manipulate animals* for information on animal ethics committees).

Conclusion:

The day to day care of all vertebrates and some invertebrates brought onto school grounds will be in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and any regulations under that Act.

Effectiveness Review:

The review process involved gathering information for making judgments about the extent to which objectives have been achieved, then deciding any further action needed to the revealed successes and weaknesses.

1. *Identify who will be responsible for leading the review, and those to be involved*
2. *Decide a timeframe for the review*
3. *Gather and consider information related to the policy objectives*
4. *Make judgments about achievement and effectiveness of the objectives*
5. *Recommend future actions*
6. *Report*

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