

# Animals Handling Policy and Procedures

Reg46/HS13

## Rationale:

We believe that It is good for children to learn to care for animals and have exposure to animals, but the safety of the children and the animals must be maintained, and the children must not be put in an unhygienic situation.

## Objectives:

Children will learn about animals and experience joy from being around them.  
Children will learn general hygiene tasks involved with animals to keep themselves safe.  
Children will learn to respect animals and to be gentle and caring with them.

## Guidelines:

- There is a need to ensure that children and adults, who handle animals, practise sound handwashing procedures afterwards. (Refer to Hand Washing Policy)
- If there are animals in the home-based environment, educator needs to make sure the animals are able to be restrained if and when required.
- Pets kept in home-based settings need their habitats to be cleaned and maintained regularly.
- Educator need to regularly check outdoor area for animal droppings and these removed.

## Procedures:

- Animals will be housed in appropriate cages, kennels or runs away from the children.
- Access to the animals will only be under the supervision of the Educator.
- Visiting animals are to be restrained while they are around the children. Educator must consider the wishes of parents before subjecting the children to animals or having animals to visit in case any of the children have fears which need to be worked through prior to the contact.
- At the time of registration, Educator will disclose if she has any animals or later if she acquires any animals. Families will be notified at the time of enrolment if Educator has any animals at the care premises.
- The TreasureTree Educator will teach the children to handle animals gently and to wash their hands after handling them. Ref: Hand washing Policy and Procedure
- Animals, are not to sleep on the bedding of the children in care.