

PET POLICY

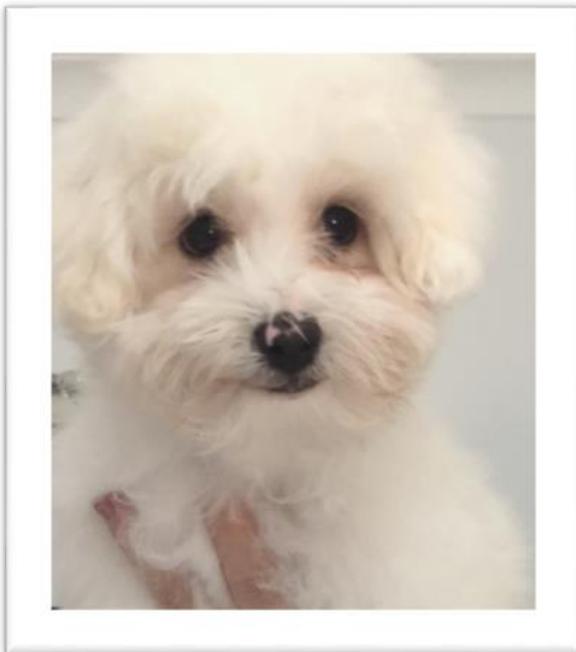


Quality Area 3: Physical Environment

Standard 3.1: The design and location of the premises is appropriate for the operation of a service

Standard 3.2: The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play

Standard 3.3: The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future



Bayside Park Early Education Centre is proud to have a white Maltese/Shih Tzu puppy attending the Service each day. "Spencer" was born on 26 January 2015, and visits children in their Activity Rooms or in the Playground for short periods at times designated by Educators, and/or upon request by the children.

Spencer's interactions with children are closely supervised by Educators at all times, and he is kept well-groomed to protect children and himself. Spencer may visit children to play, to have his teeth brushed, to be groomed or for any purpose deemed educational and

reasonable by Educators. When Spencer is not with the children, he spends his time playing, sleeping or chewing in the Office!

- Animals will only be kept on the premises as an educational resource. Any animals kept or visiting the Service will form part of the Program and Philosophy of the Service, encouraging the children to connect with and contribute to their world and become confident and involved learners.
- Educators will inform parents at initial interview if animals are kept at the Service. Educators must inform parents if a new pet is obtained. Parents may choose to terminate care if the pet is a health risk e.g. allergy.

- All care requirements will be met, specific to the animal. Any pet kept at the Service will be regularly fed, cleaned, vaccinated, have current flea treatment and be regularly wormed if applicable.
- All animals within the care environment will be treated with care and respect at all times. Children will be encouraged to observe the animals, and will be shown how to touch or handle the animals carefully and correctly.
- Animals will be fed according to their needs, with appropriate food in appropriate quantities.
- The habitat will be considerate to meet all of the animal's needs.
- The habitat will be as authentic to its natural environment as possible.
- The animal enclosure will be positioned in a suitable location that allows for safe observation by children. Children will be supervised by Educators and or parents when near the enclosure.
- Protected wildlife will not be kept at the Service unless the Service is authorised to keep the animal by law.
- Educators have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that any animals kept at the premises do not pose health/safety risks to children, adults or the animals themselves.
- Before any animal is introduced in the Service, a Risk Assessment will be carried out to pre-empt any possible hazards, which will then be planned for accordingly.
- On an Excursion with a pet, a specific Educator will be allocated to supervise the animal.
- Animals will be separated from children if transported in a car at the same time.
- The Educator will execute all necessary hygiene practices to ensure that the environment, animals, adults and children remain safe and healthy.
- Eating and drinking within animal areas is unhygienic as is animals having free access to areas where children eat. Under no circumstances should animals have access to the Kitchen or engage with children during meal times.

- Educators must ensure that children are supervised if they have access to animals feeding or drinking containers. Containers used for the animals food and water must be cleaned regularly.
- Animal faeces and litter from animal cages must be disposed of daily and in a manner that prevents children from coming into contact with it.
- A child's pet will only be allowed in the Service when permission has been granted by the Nominated Supervisor, Assistant Nominated Supervisor or Centre Manager. If an animal is brought to the Service when families are collecting children, it must be left outside the Service far enough way so children cannot touch the animal through the fence, and that it is not able to reach a child or adult arriving at or departing from the Service.
- Pets will not be allowed in the sandpit at any time. In the event that this happens and the animal contaminates the area, the substance will immediately be removed and the area sanitised accordingly.
- Educators will be aware of the animals and their behaviour and well-being at all times.
- Educators will respect that animals are living creatures and encourage the children to have the same empathy and responsibility.
- Educators will look for signs of distress in the animal and act accordingly. Animals will receive adequate amounts of food, nutrients, water, parasite treatment and veterinary care to achieve a high standard of health.
- Animal / pet licensing information is available for parent perusal upon request.

This policy was developed and sourced with consultation with; National Quality Standard, Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Nature Conservation Regulation 1994, Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2002, Petting Zoo Infection Control Guideline , Staying Healthy in Childcare Fourth Addition, Managing OHS in Children's Services, Animal and Domestic Pet FDCQA Fact sheet 11

Date that the Policy was last updated: **01 April 2015**

Date Policy to be reviewed: **31 March 2016**