



NORTHPINE
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Animal Policy

Date Created: 27 February 2017
Review Date: 27 February 2020



Animals in School Grounds during school hours and events

Context

Animals are an important part of life for many Northpine Christian College families, and as such, are at times included in day-to-day activities. The school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, but it also acknowledges that bringing animals into a child focused environment may carry with it the risk of allergic reaction or physical injury to children and in some cases children/adults may be afraid of some animals, no matter how friendly or well-controlled those animals may be.

Purpose

To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Northpine Christian College community within the school grounds, by providing clear guidelines intended to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people by animals as well as ensuring responsible care and use of animals.

The Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Queensland) outlines expectations in relation to the responsible care and use of animals. The application of intent of this Act in Queensland Schools is governed by the Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee (QSAEC). The guiding principles outlined by this committee were used by Northpine Christian College in establishing this policy.

The purposes of this Act are to do the following:

- (a) promote the responsible care and use of animals
- (b) provide standards for the care and use of animals that
 - (i) achieve a reasonable balance between the welfare of animals and the interests of persons whose livelihood is dependent on animals and
 - (ii) allow for the effect of advancements in scientific knowledge about animal biology and changes in community expectations about practices involving animals
- (c) protect animals from unjustifiable, unnecessary or unreasonable pain
- (d) ensure the use of animals for scientific purposes is accountable, open and responsible

Having animals on school grounds during school hours limits the capacity of the college to ensure student or community health and safety. For this reason, animals are not permitted on school grounds unless:

- The animal is part of an educational visit by an organised group, e.g. Responsible Pet Ownership
- The animal is an Assistance or Service Dog
- The animal is included in a teacher lead educational activity approved under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Queensland)
- Staff wishing to include an animal in their educational activity should:
 1. Use the QSAEC step-by-step decision making process to determine whether approval is required <http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/area/science/docs/qaec-approval-process.pdf>
 2. Determine if the activity involving animals has existing Standard Operating Procedures
 3. Apply for approval using the Activity Notification Form (ANF), ensuring the declaration is signed by both the activity leader and the principal
 4. Submit your ANF to QSAEC for approval - animal.ethics@det.qld.gov.au
 5. Expect the approval process to take up to 5 days

For more information - <http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/area/science/qaec.html>



Additional Guidelines

- Dogs (and any other animals) must not be tied up around the main entrances to the school grounds where children may have to walk past them.
- Animals must not be brought to activities that take place after regular school hours.
- Stray animals wandering around the school yard must be brought to the attention of administration who will attempt to corral or enclose the animal in a safe place. College staff will attempt to contact the owners or the local council for assistance with removal of the animal.

Approved by College Advisory on 27 February 2017