

Dogs in School Policy

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 skills, responsibility, empathy, caring attitude, 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 college when students are in attendance, must meet the following requirements:

- The teacher/s will have accessed the DEECD Animal Care policies to ensure that they have met the requirements:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/animalcare/process.htm>
- Principal class approval must be sought (at least 2 days prior) before using a dog for educational purposes or bringing it to the college.
- 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 having 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 College's review cycle

Related policies: School Policy Advisory Guide – <http://www.education.vic.gov.au>

This policy was endorsed by the College Council in June, 2016