

Animal Welfare Policy

Goals

- To encourage through example, the proper care of living things within Papatoetoe East Primary School.
- 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 the children/students by example and discussion about the importance of caring for animals and the responsibilities this involves.

Guidelines

1. The day to day care of all vertebrates, and some invertebrates in the care of people and / or used in experiments and teaching, will be governed by the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
2. All living creatures at Papatoetoe East Primary School will be treated with care of respect.
3. Responsibility for the welfare of animals in Papatoetoe East Primary School rests with the teacher involved and, ultimately, with the Principal and the Board of Trustees.
4. Animals kept at Papatoetoe East Primary School will be provided with their five basic needs.
 - i. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition (including weekends and holidays).
 - ii. 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).
 - iii. Freedom from injury, disease and parasite infestation (by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment) Diseased or injured animals will be treated promptly and will not be kept at Papatoetoe East Primary School until they have recovered. If this is not feasible they will be humanely destroyed.
 - iv. Freedom from distress (through proper care and handling).
 - v. Freedom to display their normal patterns of behaviour.
5. If appropriate care and facilities cannot be provided, animals will not be kept at Papatoetoe East Primary School.

6. **Animals kept at Papatoetoe East Primary School will be kept in accordance with the conditions, relevant to the particular species, outlined in Section 3 of *Caring for Animals*, 1999.**
7. **In the case of Papatoetoe East Primary School pets, prior arrangements about long-term care (including holiday care) will be made before animals are kept at Papatoetoe East Primary School. When the animal is no longer required or 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.**
8. **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.**
9. **Animals captured on field trips will be returned to their habitat before students leave the area unless their proper care in Papatoetoe East Primary School has been prearranged.**
10. **Native animals;**
 - Will not be kept at Papatoetoe East Primary School.**
 - Note that, under the Wildlife Act 1953, it is illegal to keep any species of native animals without 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 of Agriculture and Forestry.