

THE GOWRIE (QLD) INC

PETS IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

QIAS	Principle 5.5 & 6.6
REGS	Child Care Act 2002 Section 89 Child Care Regulation 2003 Section 61

POLICY STATEMENT:

To include pets, as appropriate, as an integral part of an education program without compromising the health and safety of families, staff, students, volunteers and visitors to our services.

RELEVANT FORMS/MATERIAL:

SOURCES:

- National Health and Medical Research Council (2005) *Staying Healthy in Child Care: Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care*, 4th Edition, Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra.
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995
- NCAC Putting Children First. *Keeping Pets in Child Care*, Issue 36 December 2010.

REVIEWED: July 2010

Date to be Reviewed: July 2011

IMPLEMENTATION:							
REMEMBER	<p>Pets may range from:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>gold fish</td> <td>rabbits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>birds</td> <td>mice/rats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>guinea pigs</td> <td>chickens</td> </tr> </table> <p>Depending on the type of pet, it may be necessary to register it with the Local Council.</p>	gold fish	rabbits	birds	mice/rats	guinea pigs	chickens
gold fish	rabbits						
birds	mice/rats						
guinea pigs	chickens						
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that the animals are de-fleaed and de-wormed regularly. This is particularly important in rural areas where hydatid tapeworm infection is a possibility. - Ensure that the pet is checked by a veterinarian every twelve months - <i>where possible organise for the vet to visit the centre to encourage community awareness.</i> - Arrange for any animal that is ill to be treated by a veterinarian and removed from the program. <i>An animal that is irritable because of pain or illness is more likely to bite or scratch.</i> - Ensure that any handling of pets is under the direct supervision of a staff member. Children should be discouraged from placing any animal close to their face. - Ensure that children and staff follow strict hand washing procedures following any pet handling. - Ensure that the pet is caged or housed in an area out of reach of the children and only released under adult supervision. - Ensure that the pet's cage or enclosure is cleaned by an adult – <i>children should be encouraged to watch and discuss the care skills provided.</i> - Bird cages in particular should be cleaned regularly, using gloves. The floor of the cage should be dampened before cleaning it to avoid inhalation of powdered, dry bird faeces. - Clean up or wipe up any body product of the pet using the appropriate method recommended in the service's <i>Universal Precautions. Faeces, including those in litter trays, should be disposed of at least daily or when required.</i> 						
NEVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow animals to contaminate sandpits, soil, pot plants and vegetable gardens. <i>Sandpits must be covered when not in use.</i> - Allow children to eat dirt. 						