



Care of Animals and Living Creatures Policy

Te Kaupapa Here mō te Tiaki i ngā Kararehe me ngā Koiora

Version 1 | Mahi Tuatahi

Effective Date | Whakamana tahito: July 2026 | Hūrae 2026

Next Review | ā houanga arotake: July 2028 | Hūrae 2028

Policy Owner | Rangatira Kaupapa Māhere: Chief Executive Officer

Key Accountabilities | Ngā Takonga Tuatahi: Senior Teachers and Visiting Teachers

Introduction | Tīmatanga Kōrero

The purpose of this policy is to:

To ensure all animals in kindergartens are cared for appropriately and hygienically, demonstrating understanding of animal welfare, care and empathy and children are kept safe from any harm.

Applies To | Ko Wai Whakahāngaitia

This policy applies to all People e.g. Teachers, Visiting Teachers, Students, Drivers, Drivers Assistants and TONI Educators employed or contracted by He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Association (Whānau Manaaki).

General Principles | Mātāpono Whānui

1. All teachers in the kindergarten must agree before animals are brought into the kindergarten, consult with whānau and document their understanding of the purpose of the decision made.
2. All animals can be restrained if they pose a risk to children (or adults).
3. Teachers will demonstrate to children that animals require appropriate care and attention, facilitating a code of care and empathy.
4. All teachers will identify potential risks having animals in kindergarten for the safety of children and welfare of all animals.
5. Kindergartens will develop their own procedures that will include welfare and care of animals, safe and hygienic and supervision practices.
6. Ensure thorough handwashing after handling animals and ensure animals can be kept separate from food preparation/eating spaces.

Relevant Legislation and Regulations | Whaitake Ture me Waeture

- Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008
- Licensing Criteria for Home-based Education and Care Services 2008
- Ministry of Health, Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Local Council Regulations

Related Procedures or Processes and Documents | Pākanga Tukanga me Pukapuka

Care of Animals and Living Creatures Procedure

Animal Risk Assessment Tool Form [202606 Animal Risk Assessment Tool Form v1.docx](#)

Policy Review Cycle | Kaupapa Arotake Hurihanga

This policy is to be reviewed every two years. Whānau Manaaki may amend or cancel this policy or introduce a new policy, as it considers it necessary within the current cycle of the policy. Any amendments will be considered by the policy Working Group and will need to be approved by the Senior Leadership Team and the Board. The policy will continue on the same review cycle.