



## ANIMAL CODE OF ETHICS GUIDELINES

**Preamble:** These guidelines are in accord with Cambridge Middle School protocols as approved by the **School Leadership Team in July 2021.**

- Guidelines:**
1. Cambridge Middle School recognises that under the Animal Protection Act 1987, it is required to have a Code of Ethical Conduct relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under its care.
  2. Through example, we endeavour to encourage the proper care of living things within the school situation.
  3. We attempt to provide experiences for children to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
  4. We will actively promote the care and welfare of animals as a priority in any activity involving keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
  5. We will educate our students through example and discussion on the importance, welfare and responsibility involved with animal care.
  6. "Animal" is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
  7. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
  8. Animals should not be at school if the appropriate care cannot be provided.
  9. Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed appropriately and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
  10. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area.
  11. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and School Board.
  12. No dogs will be allowed at school without the permission of the principal.

**Freedoms:** The following freedoms apply:

**Freedom 1**

Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over the holidays.

**Freedom 2**

Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, and be ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.

**Freedom 3**

Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated and not be at school.

**Freedom 4**

Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.

**Freedom 5**

Animals should be able to express normal behaviour

When any activity is planned which may cause distress or suffering to the animal, approval must be obtained from an Animal Ethics committee. A record must be kept of procedures followed as set out in the act (see ERO Handbook, 1994 page A72.R5). Contact an Animal Ethics committee through the Adviser in Science or the local Ministry of Agriculture. Information can also be obtained from Welfare and Environment section MAF Phone 04 4744 129 or by fax 04 474 4133.

**Review:** These Guidelines will be reviewed annually.