



**Rationale:**

Whangarei Boys' High School recognises its legal obligations to those species defined as "animals" under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, its moral responsibilities with regard to other invertebrate animals studied or kept at the School, and also those animals/birds and invertebrates that may be found on/around the school premises.

**Purpose:**

- To encourage, through example, the proper care of living things.
- 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.

**Definitions:**

**Animal** is defined as:

- (a) means any live member of the animal kingdom that is—
  - (i) a mammal; or
  - (ii) a bird; or
  - (iii) a reptile; or
  - (iv) an amphibian; or
  - (v) a fish (bony or cartilaginous); or
  - (vi) any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or
  - (vii) any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of this Act; and
- (b) includes any mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development; and
- (c) includes any marsupial pouch young; but
- (d) does not include—
  - (i) a human being; or
  - (ii) except as provided in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c), any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage

**Scope:**

This policy applies to all departments and individuals (staff, students, visitors to the premises)

**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 found on the Whangarei Boys' High School campus (or encountered on school trips outside school grounds) will be treated with care and respect and not be subject to cruelty of any kind.
3. Any student found to be involved in animal cruelty of any kind (either on the school grounds or while on a school trip) will be subject to disciplinary action by a member of the Senior Management Team. Police and/or SPCA involvement will be utilised.
4. Responsibility for the welfare of animals at Whangarei Boys' High School (that are kept as classroom pets) rests with the teacher involved and, ultimately, with the Principal and the Board of Trustees
5. Animals kept at Whangarei Boys' High School will be provided with their five basic needs (sometimes expressed as the five freedoms):
  - Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition (including during weekends and holidays)
  - 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).



- Freedom from injury, disease and parasite infestations (by preventing or rapid diagnosis and treatment). Diseased or injured animals will be treated promptly and will not be kept at Whangarei Boys' High School until they have recovered. If this is not feasible, they will be humanely destroyed.
  - Freedom from distress (through proper care and handling).
  - Freedom to display their normal patterns of behaviour.
6. If appropriate care and facilities cannot be provided, animals will not be kept at Whangarei Boys' High School.
  7. Animals kept at Whangarei Boys' High School will be kept in accordance with the conditions, relevant to the particular species outlined in Section 3 of The Animal Welfare Act, 1999. Species not covered by this section will not be kept at the School.
  8. In the case of classroom pets, prior arrangements about long-term (including holiday care) will be made before any animals are kept at the School. When the animal is no longer required or is 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.
  9. 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.
  10. Animals captured on field trips will be returned to their habitat before students leave the area unless their proper care at Whangarei Boys' High School has been prearranged.
  11. Native animals will only be kept at Whangarei Boys' High School if a permit has been obtained from the Department of Conservation (Wildlife Act, 1953).
  12. 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 Primary Industries and with the prior approval of the appropriate Animal Ethics Committee.

**References or Sources:**

1. Animal Welfare Act, 1999 and amendments.

**Review details:**

Version No	Action	Date
1	Written by KIR	Aug 2002
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