



# Tarcutta Public School

## Animal Welfare Policy

Staff must comply with the legislative requirements (as interpreted for schools in the document that govern the use of animals for educational purposes.

Tarcutta Public School staff must be able to provide an educational justification for the use of animals in school contexts. The justification may relate to the broad educational objectives described in

Tarcutta Public School must provide conditions and management appropriate to the behavioural and physical needs of any animals used for educational purposes.

Wherever and whenever animals are encountered in school activities, Tarcutta Public School teachers, invited presenters and community members are responsible for assisting students to develop a respect for animals and to understand the ethical issues involved in the use of animals.

If incidents of animal cruelty occur, the procedures described in the documents, *Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers and Guidelines for Schools and TAFE NSW Colleges and Campuses: Management of Serious Incidents*, must be followed.

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW) applies to all people in NSW at all times and deals with the cruel and unconscionable treatment of all animals. In addition the use of animals for educational purposes is governed by the *Animal Research Act 1985* (NSW) and the *Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*.

For each school there is to be an Animal Welfare Liaison Officer (AWLO). The AWLO is to be the principal of the school in a primary school.

Tarcutta Public School will make daily inspection of the animals they keep and for the responsible person to be able to access veterinary care at short notice. This monitoring includes weekends and school holidays.

Tarcutta Public School will maintain comprehensive records documenting acquisition, disposal and all husbandry activities carried out with the animals kept by the school for educational purposes.

Whenever Tarcutta Public School keeps animals, their evacuation and emergency plans will include information and procedures to ensure the welfare of animals is safeguarded in the event of flood, fire, drought, storm damage and vandalism.

Tarcutta Public School is required to report incidents of animal cruelty. Reporting procedures must include the submission of a Serious Incident Report and the notification of the incident to the Schools Animal Welfare Officer. Appropriate veterinary care must be sought for any injured animals.

### **Acts, Policies and Memorandum informing this Policy**

*Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers*  
*TAFE NSW Colleges and Campuses: Management of Serious Incidents*  
*The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW)  
*The Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.*