

2.8 DOGS AND HOUSEHOLD PETS

Policy:

Mackay Family Day Care Scheme recognises that having pets around can bring a lot of pleasure to children, however steps must be taken to reduce the risk of children in care becoming injured by household pets and/or animals.

Procedures:

1. To maintain a safe family day care environment, educators must ensure that domestic pets and/or farm animals are provided with an area separate to and apart from the areas used by children. This area must be inaccessible to children.
2. Specific activities that involve child animal interaction, such as brushing or bathing a dog, bottle feeding a lamb etc., must be directly supervised by the educator.
3. Household pets kept at the family day care home must be kept clean and require regular treatment for worms and fleas (if appropriate).
4. All animal faeces is removed from play areas before children arrive from care and, if necessary, during the day.
5. Pets are restricted from surfaces used for food preparation and where children eat.
6. If household pets or farm animals are kept at the family day care residence, the educator must develop a risk assessment which addresses any hazards and risks associated with keeping that/those animals as part of a child care service.
7. Educators are required to inform parents/guardians and Coordination Unit Staff when additional household pets are acquired.

Date Implemented	Review Date	Date Updated	Source
2010 August	2012 February 2013 May 2015 March 2019 March 2021 January	2017 September 2019 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010• Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011• National Quality Standard Information Sheet – Keeping Pets and Animals in Education and Care Services.