



Animals

JVS has responsibilities related to the use of animals for educational purposes to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.

1.Objectives - Policy statement

1.1

JVS staff must comply with the legislative requirements as interpreted for schools in the document, *Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers* (School Animal Care and Ethics Committee, 2001) that govern the use of animals for educational purposes.

1.2

JVS staff must be able to provide an educational justification (be it academic, emotional, behavioural, or life skills), for the use of animals in school contexts. The justification may relate to the broad educational objectives described in *Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers* or specific syllabus requirements.

1.3

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

1.4

Wherever and whenever animals are encountered in school activities, JVS staff are responsible for assisting students to develop a respect for animals and to understand the ethical issues involved in the use of animals.

1.5

If incidents of animal cruelty occur, staff are required to follow Incident Reporting Procedures in association with the '*Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers*'.

2.Audience and applicability

2.1

This policy applies to all JVS school staff.

3.Context

3.1

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*.

3.2

Within the *Animal Research Act 1985* (NSW) and the *Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*, the term *scientific purposes* includes teaching and requires teaching institutions to establish animal ethics committees to ensure compliance.

4.Responsibilities and delegations

4.1

As of May 2007, the Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AIS) has gained accreditation as an animal research establishment on behalf of independent schools. This means that the AIS will facilitate and supervise all use of animals for educational purposes in independent schools on behalf of the Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee (SACEC).

To facilitate this corporation accreditation, all independent schools must comply with the information in *Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers*.

4.2

Approval for particular activities

Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers, sets out the responsibilities and requirements of NSW schools and teachers that use animals for educational purposes. Teachers are required to obtain written approval from AIS

4.3

JVS appoints its own Animal Welfare Officer to coordinate the care and protection of any animals housed on the school premises under consent of AIS.

4.4

The JVS Animal Welfare Officer is responsible for the feeding and general care for all of the school's animals in communal areas.

4.5

Classroom teachers are responsible for any animals in their allocated classrooms.

4.4

The Principal is responsible for ensuring compliance with *Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers*.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements

5.1

The Animal Research Review Panel (ARRP) is a statutory authority that monitors implementation of the *Animal Research Act 1985* (NSW).

5.2

The SACEC makes routine visits to a sample of schools throughout NSW each year to monitor their use of animals. It is mandatory that these inspections are carried out, their outcomes recorded and that schools act to resolve any identified issues.

5.3

JVS makes arrangements for the daily inspection of the animals they keep and for the Animal Welfare Officer to access veterinary care at short notice.

5.4

The Animal Welfare Officer ensures that the system for the feeding, care and monitoring of animals includes weekends and school holidays.

5.4

JVS maintains comprehensive records documenting acquisition, disposal and all husbandry activities carried out with the animals kept by the school for educational purposes.

5.5

Animals are housed in the 'Emergency Evacuation' area, therefore their evacuation is not required. Due to the prohibitive weight, fish tanks are not able to be transported in an evacuation situation.

5.6

Schools are 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 School's Animal Welfare Officer. Appropriate veterinary care must be sought for any injured animals.

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