



MARIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PROCEDURE: **Animal Welfare**

Marist Catholic School recognises that animals are creatures of God and providing opportunities for our students to learn about, love and care for animals is an important part of the school's Catholic Special Character.

Marist Catholic School also recognizes its legal obligations to animals under the animal Welfare Act 1999 and its moral responsibilities with regard to animals studied or kept in the school.

Goals

1. To encourage through example the proper care of living things within the school situation (see: Science in the NZ Curriculum, Living World section; Achievement Objectives 3 and 4).
2. To provide experiences for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
3. To ensure that the care and welfare of the animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
4. To educate students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care, welfare and the responsibilities involved.

Guidelines

1. "Animal" is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as spiders, snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal is not to be kept in school.
4. Creatures kept in the classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly, and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
5. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care in the school is guaranteed.
6. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved but ultimately with the Principal and the Board.

The following freedoms apply:

- Freedom 1 Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at the weekends and over 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 must be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals must be treated and must not be kept 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 must be able to express normal behaviour.

More information on animal welfare can be found on the following websites:

<http://scienceonline.tki.org.nz/Teaching-science/Ethics/Caring-for-Animals>

<http://nzase.org.nz/assets/2014-Code-of-Ethical-Conduct.pdf>