

Animals on School Premises Policy & Procedure

Document Number: WHS 001 007 Ver 2

Update June 2013

POLICY OWNER: Human Resources

PURPOSE:

To ensure that there is a process in place for the management of animals when on school grounds.

This Policy seeks:

- To ensure animals do not cause any harm to persons or damage to School property or pose a health and safety threat to staff, students and/ or visitors to the School;
- To regulate the presence and management of animals on School premises and in areas where School activities are being undertaken. 'School premises' include all areas, buildings and facilities which are accessible by students, staff and /or members of the public. It does not include private residences owned by the School.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all School employees, students, contractors and visitors of St. Peter's College.

ALIGNMENT:

Towards a Preferred Future – A Strategic Plan for St Peter's College 2011-2014 underpins this policy and procedure.

POLICY:

The School recognises its obligation to take all reasonable precautions to protect the safety of its staff, students, contractors & visitors. The intent of the policy is to ensure that our school grounds remain clean and safe for all.

Dogs and other animals (other than local wildlife) are not permitted on school grounds unless deemed appropriate by the Senior Leadership Team.

The policy does allow for animals to visit classrooms, but only for specific purposes (such as show and tell, pet days, or a small classroom pet under the care of a teacher). Furthermore, the policy only allows animals in classrooms with the prior approval of a Senior Leadership Team member. .

Certified assistance animals are exempted from these provisions, and

PROCEDURE:

are allowed access to schools using the same guidelines as those in place in the community.

Any animals brought onto school grounds (approved by Senior Leadership) must be appropriately restrained at all times either by a lead or in an enclosed compartment. Dogs must be controlled at all times on a lead by a person at least 16 years of age and able to restrain the dog.

The owners or carers of any dogs and/or other animals on School premises must also comply with all relevant local Council regulations and / or any other statutory provision i.e. the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (SA)*.

The animal must have a temperament suited to being around children and crowds. Those animals that have difficult temperaments and are fearful, timid or dominant should not be brought onto the school grounds.

Hygiene of animals must be maintained at all times. Hygiene with respect to dogs and other animals is maintained through:

- i. appropriate cleaning of any toileting behaviour (carry plastic bags to do this) and to removing the refuse from School Grounds for disposal;
- ii. keeping dogs and animals out of sandpits or other play areas (keep to paths and passageways, and out of lunch and play areas);
- iii. Only healthy dogs and animals are allowed on school grounds (to prevent cross-infection to other pets etc);
- iv. keeping dogs and animals from licking or other means of transfer of any infection.

Service dogs must abide by the above conditions and be accommodated appropriately with suitable shelter and nourishment while on site.

School residents who own dogs or other animals, must ensure their animals are appropriately contained and must take full responsibility for:

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- their care;
- any injury caused to people and / or damage to property; and
- the clean-up and disposal of any excrement.

There will be circumstances where it is not appropriate to have animals on School premises. Such circumstances might include, for example, situations where the presence of an animal:

- Would be contrary to any health, cultural, religious or safety consideration;

- Would have an adverse impact on the amenity or welfare of students and/or staff;
- Would unreasonably interfere with the day to day operation of the School;
- Would contravene any other statutory provision.

In such circumstances referred to above, the School reserves the right to restrict or prohibit the presence of animals on School premises.

**POLICY
IMPLEMENTATION:**

This policy is to be implemented through statements, procedures and arrangements established under St Peter's College Work Health and Safety program.

POLICY REVIEW:

Animals on School Premises Policy is to be reviewed every three years in consultation with staff and is to be kept up to date following changes in legislation, government policy, circumstances and/or organisational change.

**DISSEMINATION OF
POLICY:**

A copy of this policy will be provided to all staff via Keystone.