

Dorset Primary School No: 5132
ANIMALS ON THE PREMISES AT DORSET PRIMARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE

To explain to the school community the rules and procedures that are in place in relation to animals attending the school grounds.

POLICY

Assistance animals

Dorset Primary School understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require an 'assistance animal' to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. The Principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (eg seeing eye animals)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

It is understood that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Dorset Primary School will consider a request by a student with a disability to allow an assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis.

Pet animals

The Principal has the authority to permit or decline any animals entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Dorset Primary School understands that many families in the school community keep animals as pets, to ensure that the school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, the following guidelines need to be adhered to:

- pets must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- pet must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied
- any waste must be picked up by the relevant owner.
- pets are not to be brought into school buildings without written permission from the Principal.

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain animals from school grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of the school community at any time.

Stray animals

Unaccompanied or stray animals sighted at our school will be reported immediately to the school office. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.