



## **Lüderitz Blue School**

### **Pets and Animal Care in School Policy**

#### **1. SCHOOL STATEMENT**

At our school, we recognize that fostering children's interest in animals can positively impact their development and contribute to the welfare of both humans and animals. We allow pets on school grounds, contingent upon the guidelines outlined in this policy and any additional conditions set forth by Senior Management.

#### **2. ADVANTAGES OF SCHOOL PETS**

- i) Research indicates that having pets in schools can:
  - Inspire learners to engage in critical thinking and education, given their natural curiosity and enthusiasm for animals.
  - Cultivate respect and appreciation for all living beings, thereby enhancing their relationships with peers, parents, and educators.
  - Instill a sense of responsibility in young learners.
  - Teach the importance of nurturing and respecting life.
  - Encourage the pursuit of hobbies or careers related to animal care.
  - Boost academic performance.
- ii) Additionally, pets in schools contribute to the community in several ways, including:
  - Enhancing the learning atmosphere, fostering a sense of safety and familial warmth among learners.
  - Promoting active participation from parents and guardians, as well as the broader community in school events.
  - Establishing the school as a vital nurturing force within the community.

### **3. CARING FOR A SCHOOL PET**

- i) At Lüderitz Blue School, we strive to uphold high standards in animal care.
- ii) Learners are instructed on the proper methods for handling and caring for animals.
- iii) Learners are encouraged to share in the responsibility of caring for the animals, under direct adult supervision.
- iv) Guidance is provided on how to interact gently and respectfully with school pets while being supervised.

### **4. PROCEDURE FOR SCHOOL PETS**

- i) Typically, specific classes or year groups are designated to care for school pets, guided by one designated Class Teacher. If a class or year group wishes to adopt a pet, they must first present their proposal to Senior Management during an Assembly or similar setting. This presentation should include:
  - Information regarding the type of pet.
  - Details about the required care.
  - A thorough outline of responsibilities related to feeding, hygiene, and more.
  - Any other pertinent information.
- ii) Once Senior Management grants approval, the Class Teacher and/or learners must develop a written care plan for each pet, including scheduled veterinary check-ups as needed.
- iii) Whenever possible, the Class Teacher should obtain well-socialized young animals from reputable sources or adopt animals in need of homes.
- iv) The Class Teacher must ensure that the pet remains in a socially enriching environment.
- v) If animals of different sexes are kept together, the Class Teacher should be aware of potential breeding and associated welfare issues.
- vi) Routine health preventive measures should be followed as per veterinary advice, including vaccinations, flea control, and deworming when necessary.
- vii) Pets and their living areas must be maintained in a clean and safe condition at all times.
- viii) A high-quality, suitable diet must be provided for the pets.
- ix) Safety protocols should be implemented, such as requiring learners to wash their hands after handling animals.

- x) Any sick animals must be isolated promptly and evaluated by a veterinarian.
- xi) Arrangements for the care of pets during holidays and weekends should be organized with staff members, learners' families, or animal shelters (eg. SPCA).
- xii) The overall responsibility for class pets rests with the Class Teacher.
- xiii) Requests and considerations for class pets will be evaluated on an individual basis.