



Lüderitz Blue School Pets in School Policy

1. SCHOOL STATEMENT

- i) As a school, we understand that encouraging children to take an interest in animals can have a positive effect on them and can be used to improve human and animal welfare.
- ii) We permit pets in school, under the conditions detailed in this policy, and any others raised by Senior Management.

2. BENEFITS OF SCHOOL PETS

- i) According to studies, school pets have been found to:
 - Motivate learners to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment of animals
 - Encourage a respect and reverence for life in learners and thereby improve their relationships with other learners, parents and teachers
 - Foster a sense of responsibility in children
 - Teach children to nurture and respect life
 - Lead to the development of hobbies / careers in animal care
 - Improve academic achievement
- ii) Pets in schools also have social benefits for the school community, including:
 - Enhancement of the learning environment, creating a sense of security and family warmth for the learners
 - Encouragement of the involvement of parents/guardians and the wider community in school activities
 - Promotion of the school as an important nurturing influence in the community

3. LOOKING AFTER A SCHOOL PET

- i) At Lüderitz Blue School we aim to promote good practice in animal care.
- ii) Children are taught correct procedures in handling and caring for animals.
- iii) Learners are encouraged to take a shared responsibility for the care of the animals, under direct supervision.
- iv) Children are taught how to interact gently with school pets whilst under adult supervision.

4. SCHOOL PET PROCESS

- i) School pets are usually cared for by specific classes or year groups, under the guidance of one responsible Class Teacher. Should a class or year group wish to take care of a pet, they must first present their idea to Senior Management in an Assembly or similar. This presentation should include:
 - Research about the type of pet
 - Research about the care needed
 - Careful planning of responsibilities in terms of feeding, hygiene, etc
 - Any other relevant information
- ii) Upon approval from Senior Management, the Class Teacher and/or learners should prepare a written care plan for each animal, including scheduled medical check-ups at the vet where necessary.
- iii) As far as possible, the Class Teacher should obtain well socialised young animals from a reputable source or rescue animals in need.
- iv) The Class Teacher should ensure that the class pet is kept in a social environment.
- v) If keeping animals of the opposite sex, the Class Teacher must consider that this may lead to breeding and possible welfare problems.
- vi) Routine preventive health measures must be practised as advised by the vet, such as vaccination, flea prevention and worm control where appropriate.
- vii) Pets and their environment must be kept clean and safe at all times.
- viii) A high quality, appropriate diet must be provided for the pet.
- ix) Appropriate safety measures must be put in place, such as children always washing hands after handling
- x) Any sick animals must be promptly isolated and examined by a vet.

- xi) Careful arrangements for holiday and weekend care must be made, either with a member of staff, a learners' family or at an Animal Shelter.
- xii) Overall responsibility for class pets always lies with the Class Teacher.
- xiii) Considerations and requests for class pets are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Written: 25.05.24
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