

Health and Safety

Welfare of Animals Policy

Rationale

Northern Health School (NHS) recognises its legal and moral obligations to those species defined as animals under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This includes animals studied, visiting, or kept in the school.

Purposes

To ensure that:

- a) Students are educated, through example and discussion, on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved.
- b) Experiences are provided for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
- c) The care and welfare of animals is a priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal within the school or its study on a field trip.

Guidelines

- a) The day-to-day care of all animals, in the care of people and/or used in experiments and teaching will be governed by the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- b) All living creatures at NHS will be treated with care and respect.
- c) Responsibility for the welfare of animals in NHS rests with the teacher involved and ultimately with the Principal and the Board. Animals will be appropriately supervised so as not to harm people.
- d) Animals kept at NHS will have their basic needs met. They will be provided with:
 - appropriate and sufficient food and liquids during school days, weekends and holidays
 - shelter, e.g, appropriate cages or containers that are properly ventilated and hygienic and do not allow exposure to extremes of noise, draughts, and sunlight
 - rapid diagnosis to prevent injury, disease, and parasite infestation. Diseased or injured animals will be treated promptly and will not be kept at NHS until they have recovered. If this is not feasible, they will be destroyed humanely.
 - proper care and handling to prevent distress.

Adopted	_____ August 2023 _____
Presiding Member	_____
Review Date	_____ April 2026 _____