

# ANIMALS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Rubicon Outdoor School 5773 2285

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to animals on school grounds.

## POLICY

### Assistance dogs

Rubicon Outdoor Centre 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. Our school 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 dogs)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Rubicon Outdoor Centre 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. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Rubicon Outdoor Centre on 5773 2364

### Pets and other animals

Rubicon Outdoor Centre is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Rubicon Outdoor Centre understands that many families in our school community keep animals. To ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, outside animals are not permitted on school grounds. Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around certain animals. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by animals. The only animals allowed on the school site are those owned by the school and those with direct permission given by the Principal to be there. Owners/carers must remove animals from the site if so directed by the Principal or delegate. If permission is granted for dogs:

- pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied

### Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately administration 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.

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Duty of Care Policy
- Visitors policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Created/reviewed date | May 2020                                 |
| Consultation          | 20/5/2020 Rubicon Outdoor School Council |
| Endorsed by           | Andrew Monson, Principal                 |
| Endorsed on           | 20/5/2020                                |
| Next review date      | May 2024                                 |