



## Animal Policy

### *Rationale*

At Wantirna South Primary School including animals in the day to day learning program is a valuable and important component. The inclusion of well cared for animals has many benefits for students, however it is imperative that a safe, hygienic, comfortable and secure environment for animals is both created and maintained. In order to provide rich animal learning opportunities, Wantirna South Primary School facilitates for animal husbandry by housing a brood of hens, as well as providing a specialised school support dog program (PAWS Program).

### *Aims*

- To provide students with first hand experiences of caring for animals and pets, whilst at the same time, ensuring that students realise and meet the obligations involved in caring for pets.
- To ensure all animals are treated with respect and consideration, ensuring that the level of care for animals is maintained over holidays and weekends.
- To allow students to bring animals to school for specific learning purposes only after gaining approval from both the teacher in charge and the school principal.
- To facilitate the learning of responsible pet ownership.

### *Implementation*

To maintain a safe, settled and secure environment for our PAWS dog, Scruffy, and the brood; dogs and other animals are **not** permitted within the school grounds between 8am and 4pm on school days, unless gaining prior approval from the school principal.

### **BROOD OF HENS**

Wantirna South Primary School proudly strives to provide sustainable programs, the Brood of Hens that reside in the WASPS Nest are an important and valued component of our school program.

To ensure the welfare of the brood a staff member is allocated to cater for the care and wellbeing of the hens. The brood are housed on the school grounds in a specially designed chicken coop called the WASPS Nest. The brood wander the school ground

during school days. If any of the hens require veterinary attention it is the responsibility of the staff member in charge to ensure appropriate attention acquired.

The brood will always be provided with fresh water and food to maintain full health and vigour.

## PAWS PROGRAM

The PAWS program focuses on developing the ‘whole child’ and aims to support Wantirna South Primary School students socially, emotionally, physically and academically. It comprises of a dog (Scruffy), chosen thoughtfully and carefully for his breed as well as specifically trained as an Animal Assisted Therapy Dog.

The PAWS program co-ordinator is responsible for the wellbeing and veterinary care of Scruffy. During the school day Scruffy resides in the school classrooms. When Scruffy is working with students the program co-ordinator or a teacher in charge must be present at all times.

It is the responsibility of the program co-ordinator to communicate the needs of Scruffy and his management to the teaching staff and students.

### *Other References*

For further specific information regarding the PAWS program please see:

<http://wantirnasouthps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/55/2014/04/Paws-up-for-learning-updated.pdf>.

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the Department of Education’s Animals in Schools Advisory Guide and RSPCA guidelines

(<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/animals.aspx>, <http://www.rspca.org.au/>).

### *Evaluation*

This Policy will be reviewed as part of a three year cycle or as directed by School Council.  
Review date: January 2018.

This Policy was ratified by School Council in January 2015.