



DOG AWARENESS

(Nature Kinder Specific)

PURPOSE

This policy aims to clearly define:

- procedures for dealing with dogs off leads that may enter the Nature Kinder space
- guidelines for dealing with an angry or threatening dog and/or a dog in attack mode
- the appropriate medical response to dog bites
- a framework for appropriately educating and training children, staff and parents about living safely with dogs.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Kallista Kindergarten is committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for children and staff participating in the Nature Kinder program
- respecting the community space that the Nature Kinder site offers, including being aware of dogs being walked off leads in the area
- communicating and educating staff and parents to minimise the risk of injury from a dog bite to children and staff during Nature Kinder.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to parents, staff, committee members, authorised persons, volunteers and students on placement working at Kallista Kindergarten.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

Kallista Kindergarten's Nature Kinder program is conducted in community garden where dogs are walked on leads. Children, staff and parents must be aware of the recommended behaviour around dogs. They must also undertake training to minimise the risk of dog attack injury.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Law 2010*
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007.

4. DEFINITIONS

Safe behaviour around dogs: The following rules are recommended by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources 'Living safely with dogs' program and reinforced by the Victorian Government's Better Health Channel website:

- Always supervise children and dogs.
- If you are unable to supervise even for a short time, separate children from dogs.
- Never approach a strange dog.
- When approaching dogs, ALWAYS
 - Ask the permission of the owner
 - let the dog smell the back of your hand first
 - pat dogs gently and calmly from the collar to the tail
 - do not pat a dog on its head.
- Stand still if a dog approaches (don't make direct eye contact, hands in fists by your side with thumbs on the inside).
- Never intervene between dogs that are fighting.
- Never disturb a dog that is eating or sleeping.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

Better Health Channel: Child safety 'Children and animals' (www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources: 'Living safely with dogs'

Kindergarten policies

- Excursion & Regular Outing Policy
- Nature Kinder Delivery and Collection of Children Policy (Nature Kinder Specific)
- Nature Kinder Protective Clothing Policy (Nature Kinder Specific)
- Nature Kinder Cancellation Policy (Nature Kinder Specific)
- Nature Kinder Identification and Visibility Policy (Nature Kinder Specific)
- Nature Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy (Nature Kinder Specific)
- Nature Kinder Snake Awareness Policy (Nature Kinder Specific)
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy
- Incident, Illness, Trauma & Illness Policy
- Sun Protection Policy
- Water Safety Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Child Safe Environment Policy

PROCEDURES

The Committee is responsible for:

- running a 'Living safely with dogs' education session for each four year old kinder group, parents and staff. The session gives particular attention to recognising the warning signs given by dogs, the correct way to approach a dog and what to do if approached by an aggressive dog
- supplying a first aid kit on site at Nature Kinder to administer first aid in response to dog bites or for any other purpose

- encouraging parents, through this policy, to practise safe dog behaviours at home and to teach children on an ongoing basis how to behave around dogs to minimise risk of dog bites
- ensuring staff are appropriately educated on procedures if an aggressive or threatening dog approaches or attacks at the Nature Kinder site
- following all procedures as set out in the Incident, Illness, Trauma and Injury Policy (including notice of notifiable incidents, appropriate record keeping if an incident occurs, maintaining a first aid kit, etc).

Staff are responsible for:

- continually educating children on the appropriate behaviours around dogs, including recognising warning signs, the correct way to approach a dog, and what to do if an aggressive dog approaches
- ensuring Nature Kinder base is set in a 'dogs on lead' area of the parklands
- administering first aid if a dog attacks
- following procedures if a dog in attack mode approaches
- reporting incidents in the log
- ensuring children wash hand if they touch a dog
- Carrying out the following procedures if the following incidents occur:
 1. *If a dog off a lead enter the Nature Kinder site:*
 - a. remind children to stand still and not to touch or encourage the dog or make any sudden movements
 - b. locate the owner if possible and encourage the owner to move the dog away from the Nature Kinder site and put the dog on a lead.
 2. *If an aggressive and threatening dog enters the Nature Kinder site:*
 - a. remind children to keep quiet and still, look down (no eye contact with dog) and put arms by sides with hands in fists with thumbs on the inside
 - b. encourage children to keep calm and not run
 - c. wait until the dog leaves the area before resuming activities
 - d. locate the owner if possible and encourage the owner to put the dog on a lead and move the dog away from the Nature Kinder site
 3. *If a dog attacks a child or staff member:*
 - a. follow current first aid practice
 - b. follow procedures set out in the Incident, Illness, Trauma and Injury Policy, including contacting parent or next of kin, calling an ambulance, logging the incident.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- practising safe dog behaviours at home and outside of the kinder
- teaching children how to behave around dogs to minimise risk of dog bites
- if possible, attending the 'Living safely with dogs' education session provided by the committee for children, parents and staff
- collecting their child as soon as possible when notified of an incident or medical emergency involving their child (such as a dog bit)
- reading and being familiar with the policy
- bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes the proprietor (committee) will:

- Seek feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with parents of children participating in the Nature Kinder program. This can be facilitated through discussions and the annual centre survey.
- Ask staff to share their experiences and observations in relation to the effectiveness of this policy.
- Regularly review the policy and centre practices to ensure they are compliant with any new legislation, research or best practice procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

AUTHORISATION

The policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Kallista Kindergarten on April 2013.

REVIEW DATE: [DAY]/[MONTH]/[YEAR]

ATTACHMENT 1

Pressure Immobilisation Bandaging Fact Sheet

Source: Australian Venom Research Unit, University of Melbourne (www.avru.org)

The principle of pressure-immobilisation bandaging as a first aid measure is to prevent the spread of toxins through the body. This is done by applying enough pressure to