Animals on Xavier College Grounds

Rationale

Xavier College recognises that animals are an important part of life for many families, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. While Xavier College appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership, it also acknowledges that other families and individuals may find contact with animals stressful, frightening, and detrimental to their health and wellbeing. The College must at all times ensure a safe school environment.

Xavier College acknowledges that animals may behave unpredictably when placed in unfamiliar or stressful situations and environments.

Scope

To provide a safe environment for all within Xavier College grounds.

To ensure animals do not cause any harm to persons or damage to College property or pose a health and safety threat to staff, students and/or visitors to the College.

To ensure equitable access to College property for those persons who require Guide or Assistance dog.

This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of the entire College community, as well as visitors and the general public, and aims to minimise the risk of injury or illness to people and animals within College grounds.

Policy Statement

With the exception of identified Guide and Certified Assistance dogs and Police dogs, animals are not permitted on College grounds, unless prior approval has been given by the College Principal or Head of Campus for specific activities.

Anyone bringing an animal onto Xavier College grounds that does not meet the exceptions as stated above, will be asked to immediately remove their animal.

Animals must not be tethered to College boundary fences or left unattended in or around College grounds.

Any animal found on College grounds without its owner will be reported to the relevant Council for collection.

Any incident in or around College grounds involving unauthorised animals will be reported to the Police and/or Council.

Unaccompanied or stray animals sighted at the College should be reported immediately to the Front Office. College staff will contact municipal authorities and/or the Police for assistance in managing and removing a stray animal from College grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Responsibilities

Parents/Caregivers will:

- Remain with their animals, **outside** College boundaries at all times.
- Animals on the boundary of the College grounds are controlled at all times on lead by a person at least 16 years of age and able to restrain the animal.
- Be entirely responsible for their animal's behaviour and for the clean-up and disposal of any excrement left by the animal.
- Ensure their animal is effectively controlled at all times and comply with all signage and the College's rules while on College grounds.

Teaching Staff will:

- Have a responsibility to ensure the safety of students while in attendance on College grounds.
- Enforce the expectations as set out in this policy.
- Request animal owners remove their animal(s) from College grounds.
- Report repeated breaches of this policy to a member of the College Executive team.
- Maintain a safe environment for all staff and visitors to the College.

College Leadership will:

- Ensure this policy is adhered to by all stakeholders.
- Ensure that the policy is made available to the College community via the College website and SEQTA Engage (documents).

Breaches

Any incident in or around College grounds involving unauthorised animal will be reported to the Police and/or Council.

Related Documents and References

This policy is supported by the following Acts:

- Work Health & Safety Act 2012
- The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Revision Record

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