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2.12 Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc.

Working with Participants Pets Policy

Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. (CCSTD) acknowledges the right of participants to keep animals and the positive therapeutic advantages of pets, however it has to be recognised that pets can also pose health and safety risks to providers and participants.

The Purpose of the Policy

Cats, dogs and other animals frequently carry a range of diseases and/or parasites that can endanger human or other animal health. Not all diseases are readily apparent, nor does the care given to either the animal or the general cleanliness of the environment eliminate risk. In addition to possible disease, an animal could trip a provider or a participant.

Risk Management Approach

Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. support workers are advised to;

- Identify with the participant or participant's representative what animals they have at home and the nature of the animals' behaviours and personalities.
- Conduct a risk assessment.
- Notify participants and CCSTD Staff of identified risks.
- Do not clean up animal soil or wash/bath animals. This is particularly important in regards to cat faeces as women of childbearing age can contract toxoplasmosis from cat faeces (affecting pregnancy).
- Ask participants (if required) to place animals outside or in a closed room while the support worker is at their home.
- Remain alert for unrestrained pets
- If the dog's owner is present, insist they restrain the pet.
- Avoid any pets that show signs of potential attack and immediately advise CCSTD staff
- Always carefully watch pets, whether it is friendly or not – though avoid direct eye contact
- Move away from the danger (if in doubt, get out).
- Exit the area through the closest, safe exit.
- Call for assistance and report the safety issue or incident (emergency services and/or contact person).

Relevant Legislation and Standards

- NDIS Practice Standards
- NDIS Code of Conduct
- NSW Disability Service Standards (NSW DSS)
- NDIS Terms of Business
- The Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014 (NSW)
- Disability Services Act (2011)
- Disability Services Regulations (2015)
- Personal Information Protection Act (2004)
- National Standards for Disability Services
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011