

## CHAPTER FOUR: HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPERVISION

Health and Medical Supervision	Animals
Revised: November 21, 2014 Revised: September 2017	Policy Number: 4.13 (replaces policy 1.9)

### **Policy**

North Hastings Children's Services shall protect the health of adults and children in care.

### **Procedures**

North Hastings Children's Services shall ensure that every dog and/or cat that is kept on the premises or visiting the premises of a Child care Program is inoculated against rabies and distemper. The certificate of immunization must be maintained on file, and updated annually.

Parents should be consulted and provide consent prior to introducing any animals into the child care centre. They should be informed of both the benefits of engaging and interacting with animals, as well as the risks (e.g., allergies, infectious disease transmission and injury) and how the child care centre plans to mitigate those risks.

Documentation providing evidence of the animal's health should be obtained. Local public health units can provide more information on this documentation.

Staff, volunteers/students and children should be educated on appropriate infection prevention and control measures and behaviours for animal contact, including the following:

- Always treat animals gently and calmly. Never hurt, tease, frighten, chase, surprise or corner an animal.
- Avoid kissing animals.
- Never disturb an animal that is eating or sleeping.
- Always perform hand hygiene (wash hands or use alcohol-based hand-rub) after touching animals, their food bowls, toys, bedding, etc.
- Avoid touching your face after animal contact until hand hygiene is performed.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care publishes the Guidance Document for the Management of Animals in Child Care Centres, 2016 ; including a list of animals not recommended in child care.