HUME CENTRAL SECONDARY COLLEGE
DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs and other animals attending our school grounds.

SCOPE

This policy only applies to pets and stray animals on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the department's Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy on PAL.

POLICY

Definitions

A **pet** refers to any animal that is privately owned in the community for companionship reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.
A **stray animal** is any animal that is not accompanied by their owner.

Wellbeing dogs

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy on PAL.

Pet Animals

Hume Central Secondary College is not a public place, and our Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Hume Central Secondary College understands that many families in our school community keep dogs and other animals as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs and other animals are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

Our school community is diverse and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around your pet. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by all pets. We ask that families please leave their pet at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

Stray animals

Unaccompanied or stray animals sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the school office. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray animal from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Duty of Care Policy - https://www.humecentralsc.vic.edu.au/policies/
- Visitors Policy - https://www.humecentralsc.vic.edu.au/policies/
- Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Hume Central SC on 03 9066 3600.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2026
Approved by	College Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2029 (policy is 3 to 4 years]