

Instruction

Live Animals in the Classroom

Animals can be an effective educational aid under proper conditions. To protect students, school staff, and the animal(s) in question, no person shall bring any live animal, whether pet or wild, onto school property without the consent of the principal. The Principal has the discretion to permit or deny the presence of animals.

All requests to have animals on school property must be submitted to the Principal in writing. Prior to submitting a request for approval, teachers should check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies among students in the classroom. If an allergy exists, parents/guardians of the student must be contacted for further discretion. Students with allergies must receive special consideration before animals are brought into school, and appropriate and reasonable accommodations should be implemented to protect the health of such individuals.

Once permission of the Principal has been obtained, parents/guardians must be notified in writing prior to any activities involving animals.

Service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disability Act, are permitted on school property so long as they are under the control of their handler and housebroken. The Board of Education requests, whenever practicable, that a service animal be clearly identified as such with an orange harness, collar, leash, and/or vest.

Eligible Animals

No domesticated animals, including dogs, cats, or livestock, shall be allowed in the school unless proof of appropriate and/or current rabies vaccination is provided.

No wild animals shall be allowed in the school unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animal (i.e., zookeepers, veterinarians, etc.). No venomous animals are allowed unless brought in cages/containers that prevent contact with students and faculty.

Classroom-Housed Animals

No animals shall be housed at school unless the teacher is knowledgeable in the appropriate care of the animal, including feeding and handling, and the teacher has provided a plan of care that includes care on weekends and during emergency closures. All waste products must be cleaned from cages on a regular basis by an adult. The teacher is ultimately responsible for the care of any animal in their classroom.

Electrical devices (i.e., filters, water pumps, etc.) are permitted for the maintenance and/or care of animals. Teachers operating this equipment must be knowledgeable of its application, and equipment must be included in the teacher's plan of care.

Student Safety

Teachers may designate students to assist with the handling and care of the animal on a limited basis (feeding, holding, etc.) Designated students must be appropriately trained by an adult.

Students will not clean cages, nor will they have direct contact with animal waste products.

Supervised handwashing with soap and water will be conducted by students who have handled animals. Handwashing will be conducted immediately after the activity has ended and prior to any further school or classroom activity.

Eating/drinking will not be allowed during activities that involve animals.

In the event that a student is injured by an animal, the Principal, school nurse, and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible. The supervising teacher will complete a written report describing the incident.

Legal Reference: Americans with Disabilities Act as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008

Tentative Approval:

Final Approval: