

## PROCEDURES FOR LIVE ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

The Board of Education and administration support the idea that animals can be part of enrichment activities relating to a particular learning experience in the curriculum. Animals can be both an effective instructional tool and therapeutic with positive benefits such as bonding and developing social and emotional skills and responsibility in students. However, the concern for the health and safety of the students, as well as for the humane care and treatment of the animal, requires that the animal's owner assumes responsibility for all necessary aspects of maintenance, transportation and care for the animal as well as for the care of school district property. It is important however, that the following guidelines be observed when instituting an activity or program involving the use of animals.

## Process to Request:

1. Receive preliminary approval from the building administrator.
2. Principal, animal owner and veterinarian (as appropriate) complete Verification of Wellness and Consent for Animal on School Premises Form.
3. With one week of advanced notice, notify parents/guardians of students who will be in contact with the animal, in writing, of the date and duration of stay of any animal(s) to be brought onto school premises.
4. The building administrator will notify the school nurse at least 2 weeks in advance of planned dates and length of stay of any animal that will be brought onto school premises so that student allergies and other health conditions can be considered before animal arrival.
5. The building administrator will notify custodial staff so proper cleaning and sanitation is provided.
6. Domestic pets shall be leashed or wear a collar for constraint when on school premises. Large mammals and livestock shall be haltered and, if appropriate, muzzled or caged. The person attending to any domestic pet, large mammal or livestock shall be responsible for cleaning up any fecal, urine or blood-contaminated material left by the animal he/she is attending.
7. Animals may not be transported to or from school on school buses or via any other transportation provided by the school district, with the exception of service animals and emotional support animals.
8. Dead animal specimens shall be prohibited from school unless they have been approved by the building principal.
9. Animal skeletons and hides that have been properly preserved may be brought into school.

Unacceptable live animals on school property include:

- Poisonous animals such as snakes, spiders and venomous insects

- Wolf hybrids (cross between wolf and dog)
- Stray animals
- Baby ducks and chicks because of the high risk of salmonella and campylobacter infection, unless permitted for curriculum purposes at the high school level subject to conditions set forth in this rule
- Wild and/or Aggressive animals (i.e. ferrets, bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes) due to the possibility of transmitting rabies
- Birds including parrots and parakeets, unless the animal has been veterinarian certified as psittacosis-free
- Reptiles and amphibians (i.e. turtles, lizards and frogs) due to the risk of salmonella infection, unless permitted for curriculum purposes at the high school level subject to conditions set forth in this rule.

Conditions requiring removal of an animal from school premises:

- Injury: Any animal that causes injury to staff or students must be immediately isolated and removed from school premises. If an individual is bitten or scratched by an animal and the skin is broken, the affected area should be cleaned thoroughly with soap and water and the incident must be reported to the legal guardian, principal and school nurse. An incident report must also be completed. The school nurse will report the incident to the Local Health Department as appropriate.
- Health issue: If a student or staff member has an allergic reaction or other health problem related to the presence of an animal, the animal must be immediately removed from the classroom/workspace of the affected individual.
- Aggression: Any animal that behaves aggressively must be immediately isolated and removed from the school premises.

Animals exempt from compliance with this policy:

- Trained and certified service animals supporting individuals with disabilities and/or law enforcement
- Emotional support animals in accordance with student 504 or IEP
- Animals approved through science curriculum will be permitted, but must be maintained in a science laboratory or by a person who is knowledgeable about appropriate procedures and handling of the animal and clean-up following animal activities.

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