

Policy

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Domesticated animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes that enhance the educational program. The purposed may include activities related to interest, handling experience, enrichment, therapy, as well as academic purposes. The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall ensure that the wellbeing and safety of the students and the animal are protected.

Guidelines as established by the American Humane Association, "Care and Management of Animal Visitors at School," are available in the school office and media center and adhered to by classroom teachers wishing to have animals in the classroom. Animals are to be in good health.

Animals must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for and handled, according to the following guidelines:

- A. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals;
- B. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and safety;
- C. Teachers with questions regarding proper care, feeding and handling of animals should contact the science resource teacher or the principal;
- D. The teacher must assume responsibility for the humane proper treatment of any animal in the classroom.

Persons bringing animals into the school should receive prior permission from the teacher and the principal.

- A. Teachers are to check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies existing among students in the classroom, prior to granting permission. If allergies exist parents must be contacted for further direction;
- B. Teachers must be aware of any existing laws regulating sale, distribution, and handling of animals;
- C. Animals are not to be transported on a school bus;
- D. All experiments using live animals must have prior approval of the principal in accord with existing law;
- E. If an animal has bitten a staff member or student where skin has been pierced, the teacher must report the incident immediately to the school office:
 - 1. The principal assumes all responsibility to:
 - a. Notify public health authorities; and
 - b. Impound the animal for observation.
 - 2. Public health authorities will determine the appropriate term of confinement of the animal and method of observation.

Injury to Persons

The following steps will be followed in the event a student, staff member, or visitor to school is bitten or scratched by an animal in school. The teaching staff member or adult supervisor in charge will:

- A. Take immediate and prudent steps to prevent further injury;

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- B. Follow/send the injured person to the school nurse for immediate examination (see policy and procedure 5141.1 Accidents, 5141.2 Injuries); and
- C. Capture (if safe and possible) and impound the animal;
- D. In consultation with the school nurse, contact of Board Health to determine if any further action is required.

Therapy Dogs

The board shall approve all therapy dogs permitted to interact with the students of this district. The owner shall provide proof of training and the animal's health and vaccination record annually.

The parents/guardians and students shall be notified prior to the first visit. This notification shall request that the parent/guardian provide information about pet allergies, fears and anxieties related to dogs, and any other concerns. Appropriate precautions shall be taken when concerns are expressed to protect the student and prevent disruption to the student's educational program.

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Key Words

Animals, Animals in the Classroom

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*5141	Student health
	*5141.1	Accidents
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.21	Administration of medication
	*5142	Pupil Safety
	6000	Concepts and roles in instruction
	*6010	Goals and objectives
	*6140	Curriculum adoption
	*6142	Subject fields
	*6145	Extracurricular activities

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.