

ANIMALS AS PART OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

There must be an educational benefit to be gained by the inclusion of an animal in the instructional program. Prior to granting or denying requests to include animals in the school's instructional program the Principal will evaluate the following issues:

- There is an educational benefit to be gained by the inclusion of the animal in the instructional program.
- There is an appropriate plan for the control of the animal.
- Any health concerns involving students, staff or other animals have been thoroughly addressed, for instance allergies, the vaccination status of the animal, if relevant, or the transmission of disease from the animal.
- The animal's health, safety and well-being have been appropriately evaluated.
- Sanitary issues have been addressed, the treatment of animal wastes and personal hygiene of students or staff in contact with the animals.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

- Animals shall not be allowed to roam freely within the school or on school grounds.
- Animals shall be housed in suitable, sanitary, self-contained enclosures or kept on a leash.
- Teachers will be responsible for ensuring that animal enclosures are kept in sanitary condition.
- Animals shall not be left in schools during holiday periods.
- Dogs and cats brought to school must have a health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.
- Students and staff shall not bring dead animals to school for any reason. Teachers may secure such animals for study from a reliable science supply source.
- Wild or poisonous animals shall not be brought to school or handled by children. Exceptions may be made if these animals are presented at school by professionals who have experience handling them.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR SPECIFIC ANIMALS

- **Parrots, Parakeets, Budgies and Cockatiels** can carry zoonotic diseases such as psittacosis and shall not be handled by children in school.
- **Ferrets** can visit in a classroom but must be handled only by the person responsible for them. Children shall not handle or hold ferrets due to the animal's propensity to bite when startled.
- **Reptiles and Amphibians** can carry salmonellosis, even when reared as pets or for display, and they shall not be handled by children in school except under close adult supervision. No turtles with a carapace (shell) length less than four inches are allowed in schools. **Always wash hands thoroughly after handling reptiles and amphibians.**
- **Fish** aquariums are to be cleaned regularly, and disposable gloves should be worn when cleaning. Used tank water should be disposed of in sinks that do not supply drinking water for students or staff.

ANIMALS NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOLS

- **Wild Animals** pose a risk for transmitting rabies as well as other zoonotic diseases and shall not be brought to school or handled by children. Exceptions may be made if wild animals are presented at school by professionals who have experience handling wildlife. **Bats, raccoons, skunks, and wild carnivores (including recently killed animals) have a high incidence of rabies and shall not be permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.**
- **Poisonous Animals such** as spiders, venomous insects, poisonous snakes, reptiles, and lizards shall be prohibited from being on school grounds. Exceptions may be made if these animals are presented at school by professionals who have experience handling them.
- **Wolf-Hybrids** are crosses between a wolf and a dog and shall not be brought to school because they have shown a propensity for aggression, especially toward young children.
- **Stray Animals** shall not be brought onto school grounds because the health and vaccination status of the animals is not known.
- **Baby Chicks and Ducks** shall not be allowed on school grounds due to the high risk of salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis.
- **Aggressive Animals** that are bred or trained to demonstrate aggression toward humans and/or animals, which have demonstrated similar aggression in the past, shall not be permitted on school grounds. Aggressive, unprovoked, or threatening behavior mandates an animal's immediate removal from school grounds.



Procedure Established January 24, 2011
Revised.....June 2, 2014

CLASSROOM PET REQUEST

TEACHER	SITE	PROGRAM/GRADE	DATE
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PET REQUESTED

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE – DESCRIBE THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF HAVING THIS ANIMAL (PET) IN THE CLASSROOM:

PLAN OF CARE – DESCRIBE THE FEEDING AND CARE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ANIMAL:

WHAT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS WILL NEED TO BE OBTAINED TO CARE FOR AND HOUSE/CONTAIN THE ANIMAL?

ARE LICENSING AND INOCULATIONS (SHOTS) REQUIRED FOR THIS ANIMAL? IF YES, PLEASE LIST THE REQUIREMENTS:

No YES – DESCRIBE:

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAILY FEEDING AND CARE?

WHO WILL CARE FOR THE ANIMAL ON WEEKENDS?

WHO WILL CARE FOR THE ANIMAL DURING SCHOOL BREAKS AND HOLIDAYS?

HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT TO KEEP THE ANIMAL?

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE ANIMAL AT THE END OF THE PROJECT/SCHOOL YEAR?

WHAT HUMAN SAFETY AND HEALTH CONCERNS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ANIMAL?

WHAT PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED TO HANDLE AND CARE FOR THE ANIMAL?

HOW ARE PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO BE NOTIFIED OF INTENT TO HOUSE PET IN CLASSROOM?

ARE THERE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM WITH ALLERGIES, ANIMAL SENSITIVITIES, OR SPECIAL NEEDS?

No YES – WHAT PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO ACCOMMODATE THEM?

REQUESTED BY (SIGNATURE)

DATE

APPROVED NOT APPROVED CONDITIONAL APPROVAL – SEE ATTACHED

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE

DATE

BEFORE ANIMAL ARRIVES SEND COPY TO HEAD CUSTODIAN SCHOOL NURSE