

## ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL

The Board recognizes that under the proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. In order to protect both children and animals, the following guidelines are adopted for use in all schools in the district.

1. The bringing of animals into the classroom must not violate city/state/federal ordinances. It must also be approved by the building principal, superintendent and handler and documented appropriately. Requests must be made by the classroom teacher. The building principal in his/her discretion may deny the request based on factors indicating but not limited to: (1) the purpose for the animal's presence; (2) the handler's ability to control the animal; (3) the handler's familiarity with the appropriate care, feeding and handling of the animal; (4) past practice/incidents in the classroom; (5) children/staff with allergies or health issues; or (6) safety and/or health risks.
2. The only animals and animal products (e.g., owl feces for dissection) allowed in a classroom must be for a specific and appropriate educational purpose and shall be allowed for the amount of time necessary to achieve the educational goal.
3. Precautions should be taken to minimize transmission of all diseases and injuries (e.g., Salmonella, rabies, ringworm, bites, scratches, etc.).
4. All animals must be in good physical condition and vaccinated against transmittable diseases. Dogs, cats, and ferrets require proof of current rabies vaccinations and other required vaccinations. Animals are to be kept clean and free of intestinal parasites, fleas, ticks, mites and lice.
5. Certain groups of people may be more susceptible to diseases, including infants, children, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems. Consult with parents to determine special considerations needed for children who are immune compromised who have allergies, or who have asthma.
6. The handler is responsible for the proper control of animals brought to school for instructional purposes, including the effective protection of children when animals are in the school. This will include keeping the animal in an appropriate cage or container, supervising human-animal contact and handling fecal material in a sanitary manner.
7. No animals are to be allowed to run freely in the classrooms, food areas, school buildings, grounds, or activity areas.
8. Areas should be designated for animal contact. Such areas should be properly cleaned regularly and after animal contact. Food or drink should not be consumed in these areas.
9. Wash hands after contact with animals, animal products, or their environment. Hand hygiene should be stressed, using verbal and written educational materials.
10. Certain animals pose additional risks and contact should not be permitted with students.
11. Wild or exotic animals are not permitted in classrooms.

If anyone is bitten/injured by an animal in the classroom, it is the handler's responsibility to notify the principal and school nurse as soon as possible.

### Unauthorized Animals on School Grounds

Unauthorized animals are not allowed in school buildings or on school grounds (Policy ECB – Animals on School Grounds). Children and staff will be instructed to keep their own animals off the school grounds. The appropriate town official will be called and requested to impound all animals.



**Legal References:**

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., Compendium of measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2006.

<http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendia.html>

Policy References:

IMGA-Service Animals

ECB-Animals on School Grounds

Adopted 2019

