

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.
2. 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 immunocompromised, who have allergies or who have asthma.
3. The teacher shall be 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 shall include keeping the animal in an appropriate cage or container, supervising human-animal contact and handling fecal material in a sanitary manner.
4. No animals are to be allowed to run freely in the classrooms, food areas or activities areas.
5. Wash hands after contact with animals, animal products or their environment. Hand hygiene should be stressed, using verbal and written educational materials.
6. Certain animals pose additional risks and contact should not be permitted with young children.
7. Wild, exotic, poisonous, venomous animals are not permitted in classrooms, unless under the control of a professional.

No animal shall be at school unless the teacher involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding and handling of that animal and of any potential dangers caused by that animal. It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to become familiar with each animal as it relates to the well-being of the individual students in that particular classroom.

The principal shall approve in advance of any animals to be housed in the classroom. At the principal's discretion, permission to keep the animal may be denied based on these considerations: (1) the purpose for the animal's presence, (2) the ability of the teacher to control the animal, and/or (3) the past practice in the classroom.

Unauthorized Animals on School Grounds

Unauthorized animals are not allowed in school buildings or on school grounds. The appropriate town official shall be called and requested to impound all unauthorized animals.

Legal References:

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., Compendium of measures for Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2006. <http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendia.html>

Adopted: 04/03/18