

No live animals may be brought into school district buildings, transported on school buses, or permitted on school grounds except as outlined below:

Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes. However, they must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled. Persons bringing animals into the school should receive prior permission from the building principal.

1. Teachers are to check with the school principal regarding any known allergies existing among students in the classroom prior to granting permission. If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction.
2. Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animal in the classroom.
3. Teacher must be aware of state laws regulating sale, distribution, and handling of animals.
4. Only the teacher, or students designated by the teacher, is to handle the animals.
5. 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.
6. Teachers with questions regarding proper care, feeding and handling of animals should contact the science resource teacher or science department head.
7. Animals are not to be transported on school buses.
8. All experiments using live animals must have prior approval of the building administrator.
9. If a staff member or student has been bitten by an animal where skin has been pierced, the incident must be reported immediately to the school office by the supervising adult. Principals are to assume responsibility to notify public health authorities and to impound the animal for observation. Public health authorities will determine the appropriate term of confinement of the animal and method of observation.

Other exemptions include:

1. Animals trained to assist persons who are physically impaired shall have unlimited access to district property when being used for that purpose.
2. Animals under the control of public safety officials shall have unlimited access to district property for exercise, educational, and public relations purposes. Proper notification of such visits shall be left to the discretion of the controller of such animals. Use of these animals by law enforcement officials is under the jurisdiction of state and federal law and not covered by this policy.

The presence of animals in school buildings or on school property shall also be subject to local laws and ordinances pertaining to animal control. Such laws and ordinances may vary depending on the location of the building/property.

Violation of this policy will result in parent contact and removal of the animal from school property. Refusal to cooperate will lead to disciplinary action. If an adult violates the policy as set forth above, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and action taken.

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