

Animals in Schools

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1. The principal must approve the purpose for each animal in the school. No animal will come onto school campus without the principal's approval.
2. Animals will not be allowed to roam freely in the school.
3. Animals will be housed in suitable, sanitary self-contained enclosures appropriate to the size of the animal or kept on a leash.
4. Owners will be responsible for ensuring enclosures are kept in a sanitary condition.
5. Animals will not be left in schools during holiday periods where practical (fish in tanks an exception), and owners are responsible for making arrangements for their care.
6. Dogs and cats brought to school must have a health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.

General Guidelines for Animals in Schools

Animals allowed onto school campuses will be clean and healthy so that the risk of transmitting diseases to students is minimal. Animals children handle should be well groomed and free of parasites and disease.

Prior to coming to school, dogs and cats must have the following:

- A. Health Certificates for Dogs - A health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian is required showing proof of current vaccinations. The dog should be free of parasites such as fleas, ticks, and mites.
- B. Health Certificates for Cats - A health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian is required, showing proof of current vaccinations. Cats should be free of parasites such as fleas, ticks and mites.

Proper Restraint of Animals

No animal will be allowed to roam unrestrained on the school campus or in classrooms. Animals may react strangely to classroom situations, and there must be an effective way to control them. Fear may cause an animal to attempt to escape or even act aggressively in situations that are unusual to them. Appropriate restraint devices allow the holder to react quickly and prevent harm to the students or escape of the animal.

Collars and Leashes - Dogs and cats must wear a proper collar, harness, and/or leash when on school grounds or in the classroom so that they can be easily controlled. Household rope or string is not considered an appropriate restraint tool. The owner or person responsible for the an-

imal should stay with the animal during its visit to the school. All animals will be restricted to the area designated by the principal or administrator.

Birds should never be allowed to fly free in a classroom.

Snakes, Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles and amphibians can carry salmonellosis, even when bred as pets or for display. They should not be handled by children without very close adult supervision. Staff will ensure students wash hands thoroughly after handling any animals.

ANIMALS NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOLS

Small Animals

Type of Animal

raccoons, baby raccoons
 squirrels
 bats
 wild rodents
 aggressive rabbits

Example of Safety Problem/Disease

not bred in captivity, unpredictable
 not bred in captivity, unpredictable
 rabies, should not be held in captivity
 unpredictable, biting
 unpredictable, biting

Snakes, Reptiles, Amphibians

Type of Animal

large pythons
 ball pythons

 lizards
 frogs (wild)
 turtles
 caymans, small alligators

Example of Safety Problem/Disease

biting, aggressive behavior from the wild,
 should not be held in captivity

 salmonella
 salmonella, should not be held in captivity
 high rates of salmonella
 unpredictable, biting, salmonella

Birds, Fish, Insects

Type of Animal

baby chicks, chickens

 parrots, parakeets, cockatiels
 (Psittacine birds)

 wild or injured birds
 dangerous fish such as piranhas, etc.
 bees (not enclosed/encased)
 centipedes

Example of Safety Problem/Disease

salmonella, campylobacter (very harmful to
 small children)

 psittacosis - Washington State law restricts
 keeping Psittacine birds in classrooms due to
 the possibility of spread of infection

 lice, unpredictable
 biting, prohibited
 biting, stings (allergic reaction)
 biting, stings

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