

## **LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM OR ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

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Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes that extend beyond an academic, subject matter approach. Such extensions may include activities related to interest or enrichment. At all times, the safety of the children and the well-being of the animal must be ensured. Animals must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for and handled properly. Any animal used in school must have been lawfully acquired in accordance with applicable state law and local ordinance. An animal susceptible to rabies must have been vaccinated against rabies.

Persons wishing to bring animals into the school must receive prior permission from the teacher and the final approval from administration. The administration shall be informed when any live animal is to be brought into a classroom. This includes therapeutic animals and any other educationally connected animal.

### Service Animals:

All schools are required to provide access to "service animals" under Section 504 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. All service animals must assist a student with a disability. Service animals are dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Service animals must have a trained recognition and response to signals communicated to the service animal. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals.

A partial listing of reasons for exclusion of animals is as follows:

1. Sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support;
2. Are not housebroken;
3. Are controlled by an outside agent or handler;
4. Other non-discriminatory administrative reasons

Documentation will be requested for any/all service animals.

Classes may conduct controlled experiments involving animals and reptiles, so long as proper security measures are followed for legitimate scientific investigation. A teacher or other qualified adult must assume primary responsibility for the animal, its nourishment, and its sanitary living conditions. The staff member in charge must make the proper arrangements for the animal's care and feeding over weekends, holidays, and school vacation periods.

No person owning or in control of a domestic animal shall allow animal on school property at any time, except when assisting the handicapped or in connection with training of same, i.e., seeing eye dog for the handicapped. Animals that are in training for the handicapped shall wear markings identifying that they are in training for the handicapped. It should be the responsibility of the owner/caretaker to clean up all animal waste.

Adopted/Revised: 10/23/86; 1/21/99; 1/19/17