

ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL

Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes. However, they must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled. Guidelines as established by the American Humane Association, “Care and Management of Animal Visitors at School”, should be consulted, and these guidelines are to be adhered to by classroom teachers wishing to have animals in the classroom. Persons bringing animals into the school should receive prior permission from the supervising teacher.

1. Teachers are to check with the school nurse 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. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.
4. 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.
5. Teachers with questions regarding proper care, feeding, and handling of animals should contact the science resource teacher or science department head.
6. Animals are not to be transported on school buses.
7. All experiments using live animals must have prior approval of the principal and be conducted in accord with educationally approved guidelines on experimental use of animals.
8. 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.

First Reading: September 23, 2013

Second Reading & Adoption: October 28, 2013