

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 360 PETS / ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The principal shall approve animals that are brought to schools. Accommodation of animals in schools for educational reasons is permissible, subject to the following:

1. Only animals which are normally available in a local pet store will be considered by the principal. In addition, the principal will consider recommendations of the Medical Health Officer. Specific programs such as the Salmonid Enhancement program are permitted.
2. The staff member who requested approval for the animal in the classroom is responsible to provide suitable containment, feeding, cleaning and other duties connected to the care and accommodation of such animals. The staff member will make every effort to ensure that the animals in the school are free from disease or parasites.
3. Staff members are not permitted to bring their household pets to school except for short-term instructional purposes.
4. Hygiene is a significant factor to be considered. The staff member is responsible for teaching and ensuring diligent hygiene and handling procedures are taught and enforced with students. Appropriate supervision is required any time students are handling animals.
5. Should the health of staff or students be negatively affected by the presence of animals, approval will be withdrawn.
6. Animals will be removed from the school prior to summer vacation. Where animals cannot be removed during other vacation periods, care must be arranged for the animals by the staff member and approved by the principal.
7. Unless accompanied by expert handlers, native wildlife, exotic, venomous or dangerous animals shall not be permitted in schools.
8. Animals are not permitted to roam freely in the school. Animals accompanied by expert handlers must be approved by the principal before visiting the school.
9. Every owner of an animal, other than an assistance dog, while in a public place must obey all posted signs and this administrative procedure.