

## ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of students while enriching the school curriculum with visits/lessons regarding animals.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

#### A. Prior Written Permission Required

Prior written permission from the building administrator must be obtained before any animal is brought onto school premises. Parents/handlers wishing to bring animals on school premises can obtain permission forms in each building office. A copy of this form is attached as an addendum to this policy.

Building administrators have complete discretion as to whether to allow animals on the premises.

#### B. Proof of Inoculation

Animal owners/handlers must present proof of all inoculations for the animal, including rabies and other necessary inoculations, before permission is granted by the administrator.

#### C. Restraint/Handling

All animals must be properly restrained and controlled at all times in appropriate cages, tanks or leashes. Owners/handlers violating this provision will be asked to leave school premises immediately.

Laboratory animals (mammals, fish, reptiles and birds) that are part of a curriculum project may be brought into a classroom for the duration of the project, but they must be kept in appropriate, properly maintained cages/containers.

#### D. Students with Health Concerns

To help children and adults who suffer from allergies and asthma, instructors, before bringing an animal into the classroom, will ask about health issues. If there are no health issues, instructors will take the following steps:

1. *Animals brought in for demonstration projects* will be kept in an area away from students/faculty with health issues and the animal will be removed as quickly as possible.
2. *Animals used for curriculum purposes* will be segregated from students/faculty with health concerns. If the health issue is significant, the instructor will develop an alternative lesson for the class and not bring the animal into the classroom.
3. Non-allergenic animals (reptiles, amphibians, most insects, crabs and fish) will be used whenever possible as an alternative to birds and animals.

E. Signage

Signs will be posted on school grounds that animals are not allowed on school property without permission of a school administrator.

Adopted and Approved: 08/06/01

Revised 02/04/08

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 12/02/13  
 12/05/16