



ANIMALS ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

Background

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the greatest possible level of safety for students and staff with regards to animals on school district property and in school buildings. The presence of animals may present safety, health and liability issues.

Procedure

1. In general, animals, including all pets, are not permitted to be in school buildings at any time, whether during school hours or not. This generally includes, dogs, cats, birds, other pets or potentially dangerous exotic animals. Under no circumstances will venomous snakes or insects be allowed on school district property or in a school or district buildings.
2. Some exceptions may be permitted only with the prior approval of the principal including:
 - Certified Guide and Service Dogs (see Operational Procedure 153);
 - Therapy Dogs in Schools (see Operational Procedure 154);
 - Police dogs under the control of a police officer; and
 - Animals brought into schools for instruction purposes that support a curricular outcome.
3. Prior to allowing animals into a school or classroom, steps must be taken to ensure that students and employees are not allergic to the presence of these animals, that the animals will not present a danger to students or employees, and that the animals are free from any disease or parasite.
4. The principal must, subject to the exceptions in #2, give prior approval before any animal is allowed in a school. The superintendent must give prior approval before any animal is allowed in schools and school district offices. Any requests that fall outside of this operational procedure shall be referred to the superintendent.
5. The owner of an animal on school district property and/or in district buildings is responsible and liable for any injuries and damages. The School Protection Program does not cover employees who bring an animal to school should that animal cause injury or damage.
6. When approval has been granted for an animal to be in a school or classroom, they shall be housed in suitable, sanitary, self-contained enclosures appropriate to the size of the animal. Animals shall not be allowed to roam freely in the classroom or school.
7. Approved animals must be up to date on all appropriate vaccinations, flea medications, etc.
8. The sponsors of the animals must ensure that enclosures are kept in a sanitary condition and that waste is properly sealed for disposal. All waste pertaining to the classroom animals shall be removed using gloves; double plastic bagged and placed in the appropriate receptacle.
9. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the sponsors of the animals must ensure that they are cared for daily.

10. Principals must notify the facilities department should there be any maintenance or operations impact or needed support. Consideration must be given to ensure that there are no fire code violations or odor problems arising from having the animals in the classroom.

Related Procedures: OP 153 Guide or Service Dogs in Schools
 OP 154 Therapy Dogs in Schools