

LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

The School Board recognizes that the appropriate use of live animals as instructional resources can enrich an educational program. The observation and nurture of live animals can help children learn specific biological and behavioral principles and gain respect for all living things.

The health and safety of all students and employees is a top priority of the School Board; therefore, the inclusion of animals in instructional areas is allowed only if such inclusion does not compromise the health and safety of people. For reasons of health and sanitation, the school nurse may be called upon by the principal for consultation as to the appropriateness of animals being in the school.

The principal must approve the use of any animal in a course of instruction or the establishment of an animal habitat in the classroom.

In order to protect the health and safety of all concerned, all animals must be appropriately confined at all times unless they are being handled for a specific purpose. Such confinement must be designed so that food, water, and waste materials do not accumulate outside the confined area.

Animals may be unconfined only when under the direct supervision of a responsible adult.

Any animal in school must have been lawfully acquired in accordance with applicable state law. An animal susceptible to rabies must have been vaccinated against rabies.

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 proper arrangements for the animal's care and feeding over weekends, holidays, and school vacation periods.

No experiment that deprives the animal of nourishment or exposes the animal to harm may be conducted.

Animals too large to confine may be brought into school only for specific instructional purposes and with prior permission from the principal. These animals must be immediately removed from the school at the end of the instructional program. In accordance with the April 1998 recommendation from the Vermont Department of Health, "pet dogs, cats, wolf-hybrids, ferrets, and farm animals...do not belong in the school." Exceptions to this rule may be made by the principal provided that appropriate health precautions are implemented and that such exceptions are required either for

specific instructional purposes or for purposes for which the animal is an absolute necessity. An example of such a purpose is that of a “guide dog” for visually handicapped individuals.

Provisions of Regulation EBBG-2 shall be used as a guideline in governing the implementation of this policy.

ADOPTED: Norwich 3 November 1994

REVISED: 4 May 2000