

AP 1503: Animals in Schools for Curricular Purposes

The district seeks to ensure the greatest possible level of safety for students, staff, and animals with regards to pet animals kept in school buildings. The following conditions also apply to registered Guide Dogs or Service Dogs; however, the only exception to the following conditions is that a registered Guide dog or Service Dog is permitted to be in the building without seeking approval.

Procedures

1. Animals shall:
 - 1.1. Not be allowed to roam freely within the school setting and should be confined to a habitat within the classroom; and,
 - 1.2. Be cared for during holiday periods.
2. The principal shall approve the inclusion of a live animal in the classroom, except in the case of a registered Guide/Assistance dog.
3. Principals shall ensure that the following conditions have been completed and approved prior to introducing an animal into a classroom:
 - 3.1. Procedures on the safe handling and care of the animal are posted and reviewed with students, stating that the animal is only handled by students when:
 - 3.1.1. It does not endanger or stress the animal;
 - 3.1.2. The handling of the animal is related to the curriculum being taught;
 - 3.1.3. The handling of the animal is in accordance to species-specific handling instructions; and,
 - 3.1.4. The student is directly supervised by the experienced caregiver or teacher.
 - 3.2. Procedures for the feeding of the animal and maintenance of the enclosure for hygienic purposes are established.
 - 3.3. Parent(s) or guardian(s) are informed of the intent to keep classroom pet(s) and are given the opportunity to express their thoughts.
 - 3.4. The care and welfare of the animal has been attended to by the staff responsible for the animal during weekends, holidays, and school breaks.

- 3.5. Procedures to remove the animal from the classroom if the animal places the safety of students/staff in jeopardy or is a health hazard for students/staff or is an impediment to learning.
- 3.6. Disposal of all refuse or waste pertaining to classroom animals and refuse has been placed in the appropriate receptacle safely.
- 3.7. Procedures to dispose of the animal in a manner that is safe and sensitive to student emotions, in the event of death of the animal.