

Regulations follow

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2560 – LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

The Board of Education recognizes that the appropriate use of live animals as instructional resources can enrich the 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.

A staff member who uses live animals shall observe proper precautions for the safety of pupils and the animals. The Principal or designee must approve a live animal being brought into a school building and the use of any animal in a course of instruction or the establishment of an animal habitat in a classroom.

Any animal used in school must have been lawfully acquired in accordance with applicable State law and local ordinance. An animal susceptible to rabies must have been vaccinated against rabies and proof of such vaccination must be included with the request to bring a live animal into the school. The request must be submitted to the Principal or designee before a live animal is brought onto school grounds or into a school building. All reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that no animal shall be permitted in any area of the school where a pupil who is allergic to the animal might be exposed to the animal.

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.

R 2560 LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

A. Standards for Use

1. A teacher or other qualified adult supervisor must assume primary responsibility for the purposes and conditions of any study, activity, or performance that involves live animals in school.
2. Instruction involving live animals will be based on a clearly defined curriculum objective.
3. All animals used must be lawfully acquired in accordance with state and local laws, be healthy and free from transmissible diseases, and must have been vaccinated against rabies if susceptible. Proof of vaccination must be provided to the Principal or designee before the live animal is brought into the school building.
4. Animals may be handled only by the responsible adult supervisor and the pupil(s) directly involved in the study or performance.
5. Animals must be properly fed and provided with sanitary cage quarters, and treated humanely in every way.
6. When animals are kept in school quarters over vacation periods, adequate housing must be provided and a qualified caretaker must be assigned the specific duties of care and feeding.
7. Pupils pursuing investigations at other than regular class periods while in school as part of a school assignment or project (such as a school science fair) will be bound by these regulations.
8. The Principal or designee must approve a live animal being brought into the school building and the use of any animal in a course of instruction or the establishment of an animal habitat in a classroom.
9. The Principal or designee will make a determination that no pupil in a class where the animal will be housed is allergic to the animal and would suffer an adverse reaction to the animal. The Principal or designee should also attempt to determine, if any other pupil in the school building could suffer an adverse reaction.

If the Principal or designee determines that there is a pupil(s) who would suffer an adverse reaction, the Principal or designee shall deny approval to have the animal in the school.

B. Injury to Persons

The following steps will be followed in the event a pupil, staff member, or visitor to school is bitten or scratched by an animal in school. The teaching staff member or adult supervisor in charge will:

1. Take immediate and prudent steps to prevent further injury;
2. Follow Regulation No. 8441 for The Care of Injured And Ill Persons; and
3. Capture and impound the animal, pending a determination of the Board of Health regarding further action.

In Effect: February 20, 2001
Revised: November 18, 2014