

Instruction

Live Animals in the Classroom – Regulation

Teachers shall adhere to the following regulations when the principal or his/her designee has authorized animals or insects to be brought to, or housed in the classroom.

1. Teachers should select animals or insects that will suit their specific instructional needs. Each animal or insect should be practical to care for in the environment provided in or near the building with only minimal modification. Teachers shall also make arrangements to provide care during weekends, long holiday breaks and during emergency closing.
2. Fur-bearing animals may be allergenic, causing a reaction in sensitized individuals. Teachers are to check with the school nurse regarding known allergies among students/staff. No animal shall be housed in a classroom where there is a student with such an allergy. At any time, if it is suspected that a student or staff member has had an allergic response to the animal, the animal shall be removed from the building. If a student/staff has a life-threatening allergy to an animal, it must not be brought into the building.
3. Any animal kept in the classroom for an extended stay shall be examined by a veterinarian to assure the animal is free from any disease.
4. Handling of all animals should be limited to that which is necessary, such as teacher-supervised instructional activities, feeding and watering and cleaning of the housing. Unless the animal or insect is part of a specific activity, it must remain in its cage or housing.
5. Teachers must emphasize the importance of proper hand washing immediately after handling any animal.
6. Plans must be made for the food, housing and general comfort of an animal before it is brought into the classroom.
7. Animal housing must be kept in a clean, sanitary condition, free of odor. Waste shall be disposed of in a tied plastic bag.
8. All animal bites, stings or scratches shall be reported immediately to the school nurse and Principal. Teachers shall inform the parent/guardian of the injury and complete a student accident report form in the clinic.

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Restrictions

When preparing for the introduction of live animals or insects into the classroom setting, the following prohibitions and rules shall be observed:

1. Wild, exotic or aggressive animals like ferrets are prohibited.
2. Bats shall not be kept, as they are known carriers of the rabies virus.
3. Parrots, parakeets and other psittacine birds may be carriers of human respiratory diseases and shall not be kept in schools unless they have been tested and certified as psittacosis-free.
4. Turtles are known carriers of salmonella, and shall not be kept in a classroom. Many other reptiles also harbor salmonella bacteria and must be handled only by the teacher.
5. Raccoons, ferrets and skunks shall not be brought to school because they may inflict severe bites.
6. Poisonous animals and insects are prohibited.
7. Wild animals shall not be brought into the classroom unless they are under the direct supervision of a trained representative of a conservation agency or public zoo.
8. Insects that sting or bite shall not be brought into the classroom intentionally.

Regulation approved: 5/21/03

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Brookfield, Connecticut