



Animals on School Premises - Board Policy IMC-R

Questions and Answers

Q: Are animals allowed in schools?

A: Yes, if they meet any criteria listed in: Section 2. General Requirements for Animals (other than Service Animals), Section 3. Use of Animal Specimen, Section 5. General Requirements for Service Animals.

Q. What are some of the requirements in Section 2. General Requirements for Animals (other than Service Animals)

A: Section 2

- a. *"No person shall bring, possess, carry, keep, maintain or exhibit an Animal on School Premises except for **educational or instructional purposes as part of the curriculum or an educational enrichment program relating to a specific course of study.**"*
- b. *"A teacher must request and receive permission from the building principal before any Animal is brought to school. The request for permission must state the period the animal is requested to be on District property and show how the animal in a school or classroom, **as part of the curricula or in conjunction with a course of study, can enrich educational programs, facilitate the learning experience, and otherwise provide valuable educational benefits for students, particularly in the study of biology and life sciences.**"*
- c. *"At least (3) days prior to an animal being brought to school, the teacher must send **written notice** to nursing services and parents/guardians of students as directed by the principal or building administrator. The notice shall provide the opportunity to disclose known allergies, immune deficiencies or other objections so that special precautions or accommodations can be taken."*
- d. *If any individual is bitten or scratched by an animal and the skin is broken, the affected area must be cleaned thoroughly following first-aid procedures, and then **reported to the individual's parent/guardian, principal and nursing services.***
- e. *Students shall not bring Poisonous Animals or Wild Animals to School Premises. **Exceptions may be made** for exhibits and presentations by recognized agencies that have programs specifically designed for schools or children in a public setting.*
- f. *"The person bringing an Animal on School Premise assumes any and all risks of loss or harm related to the Animal".*
- g. *"Except for Service Animals authorized by the District's Transportation contractor, Animals shall not be transported on school buses."*



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Q. Are animal dissections allowed under this policy?

A. Yes, there are no changes for purchase, use and disposal of dissection animals (**Section 3.**)

Q. Who is responsible for the care and cleanup of animals?

A. Section 4 Nutritional and Environmental Care of Animals

- a. *"The **teacher is responsible** for an approved Animal on School Premises."*
 - i. *"provide humane and proper care and treatment to the animal"*
 - ii. *control and confine the animal so that it does not present a health or safety hazard and is not at large on School Premises"*
 - iii. *"house animal in cage, aquarium, ect. that is appropriate for the species"*
 - iv. **remove all waste** produced by the animal which includes changing, removing all animal waste and soiled material both inside and around where the animal is housed..."
 - v. **"dispose of animal waste** and soiled materials by removing the materials, bagging the waste material and then disposing the waste/materials in an outdoor dumpster"
- b. Tasks listed above *"shall continue uninterrupted during weekends, breaks and vacations"*
- c. **"no District employee shall bring or keep a personal pet in a District school or District building"**
- d. *"animals are NOT PERMITTED in areas where food is prepared or served"*

Q. What are requirements for Service Animals?

A. Section 5 General Requirements for Service Animals on School Premises

- a. *"Service Animals for students with disabilities shall be permitted in school buildings and on District property to the extent required by the conditions specified in the student's individual educational plan (IEP) or Section 504"*
- b. *"Service Animals for the benefit of other individual with disabilities shall be permitted to the extent required by law"*
- c. *"Service Animals utilized by law enforcement to perform or assist in law enforcement duties or functions shall be allowed"*
- d. *"If an individual's disability is not readily apparent, district faculty or staff may determine whether the dog is a Service Animal by asking the individual whether the dog is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform"*
- e. *"Service Animals shall be under the control of its handler. A Service Animal shall have a harness, leash or other tether...Service Animal must be under the handler"*



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- f. *“District faculty or staff may ask an individual to remove a Service Animal from School Premises if:*
- i. *“the Service Animal is out of control and the Service Animal’s handler does not take effective action to control it”*
 - ii. *“the Service Animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others; or*
 - iii. *the Service Animal is not housebroken*
- g. *“The District is not responsible for the care or supervision of a Service Animal and nothing in the regulation relieves the handler of a Service Animal from liability for damage caused by the Service Animal”*

Q. What are consequences for violations tot his policy?

A. Section 6 Violations

*“Any teacher, staff member or student who knowingly or intentionally brings, possess, carries, keeps, maintains or exhibits an Animal on School Premises in violation of this regulation or without complying with its requirements **shall be subject to disciplinary action** in accordance with this policy”*