

4530 Animals in District Facilities

Policy 4530

STATUS: ADOPTED

ANIMALS IN DISTRICT FACILITIES

Adopted: June 19, 2013

Description:

The Board believes that the presence of animals in school environments should be for educational purposes only. Whenever there are animals in classrooms the safety and well being of the students, and the care and health of the animals will be primary considerations.

ANIMALS IN DISTRICT FACILITIES

Adopted: April 14, 2004

Last Revised: June 19, 2013

Description:

1. Animals entering the school facility, will be subject to the Principal's approval, and there will be relevance to the educational program of the students.
2. The classroom teacher shall be responsible for maintaining a clean environment for the animal, and for the care and responsibility of any animal left in the classroom.
3. Provision for the care of a live animal on weekends and holidays is the responsibility of the classroom teacher.
4. All animals that are left in the classroom shall be kept in enclosed, self contained, environments that will not permit unsupervised handling of the animal by students.
5. The animal's environment shall be large enough to provide for the care and health of the animal.
6. Prior to introducing any animals into the classroom, teachers shall be certain that students and school personnel are not allergic to their presence and that:
 - i) the animals are certified by a veterinarian to be free from any diseases or parasites and do not present the risk of introducing disease over time (ie: salmonella in the shell of a turtle);
 - ii) the animal(s) will present no physical danger to students;
 - iii) the animal(s) will not be unduly stressed by being introduced to the classroom environment;
 - iv) students will be instructed in the proper care and handling of the animal.
7. When an animal constitutes a health or safety risk, or represents a risk to the security and well being of a student or staff member, the animal shall be removed.
8. The exception to these regulations will be the use of guide dogs, or assistive dogs for the visually, hearing, or physically challenged student/staff. An additional exception will be for the RCMP working dogs.
9. The District discourages the presence of the following animals in school environments for reasons of elevated risk:
 - Cats
 - Reptiles
 - Animals that have histories of being aggressive or unpredictable.