

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Instruction

6163.3

Live Animals in the Classroom

The Board of Education recognizes that under proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. The Board of Education recognizes that there are medical and physical concerns associated with animals, both wild and domesticated, in the classroom and/or on school property. The following guidelines are adopted regarding all animals (mammals, birds, reptiles/amphibians, fish, insects,) in the classroom or on school property.

1. All animals in the classroom or on school property will be treated in a humane fashion.
2. All requests to have animals in the classroom or on school property must be submitted to the Principal in writing. Included in the request should be a description of the activity, type of animal, educational purpose/benefit, length of activity, and a plan for the care of the animal. The Principal has the discretion to permit or deny the presence of animals.
3. Parents/guardians must be notified in writing prior to any activity involving animals with the exception of random K-9 searches by the law enforcement agencies.
4. Students and teachers with allergies must receive special consideration before animals are brought into a school. Prior to any exposure to animals in school, the teacher should be aware of any condition such as allergies which could be exacerbated by exposure to animals. Appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be accorded to protect the health of such individuals.
5. All requests to take field trips involving animals must be submitted to the Principal in writing. In determining whether to grant the request, the Principal shall be guided by the district policy on field trips and shall also take into consideration any known allergies among the students and the possible side effects of the planned exposure to animals.
6. No domesticated animals, including dogs, cats, ferrets, primates, or livestock, shall be allowed in schools unless proof of appropriate and/or current rabies vaccination is provided.
7. No wild animal (i.e., skunks, raccoons, bats, ground hogs, ground hogs, monkeys, or fox, etc.) shall be allowed unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animals (i.e., zookeepers, docents, veterinarians, etc.) Under no circumstances will students be allowed direct contact with these animals.
8. All animals brought for exhibit must be restrained by the owner/handler.
9. No poisonous animals are allowed unless brought in cages/containers that prevent contact with students and faculty.
10. Each teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students under his/her direction whenever there is an exhibit or activity involving animals in the school.

Live Animals in the Classroom

11. Animals will be allowed to be housed in classrooms only for a specified and appropriate educational purpose for the time necessary to achieve the educational goal.
12. It is the responsibility of the teacher to provide a plan of care for classroom-housed animals including care on weekends and during emergency closure. No animals shall be housed at school unless the teacher involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding, and handling of the animals.
13. Each teacher is responsible for the proper control of animals brought to the classroom for instructional purposes, including the effective protection of students. This includes keeping the animals in appropriate cages or containers for the protection of the animal and individuals.
14. No animals will be allowed free range in the facility.
15. Supervised handwashing for a minimum of twenty seconds with soap and water will be conducted by students after handling animals. Handwashing will be conducted immediately after the activity has ended and prior to any further school or classroom activity. Eating/drinking will not be allowed during the animal exhibition or during activities involving animals.
16. The Principal and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible if an individual is bitten by an animal or any incident occurs which could have an adverse effect on physical or emotional health. The supervising teacher will complete a written report describing the incident.
17. Seeing-eye (Guide), hearing and service dogs are permitted on school buses and in school facilities to perform the functions for which they are trained. Such animal must wear a “harness or an orange-colored leash and collar which makes it readily identifiable as a guide dog” that is licensed. Fees cannot be assessed due to the presence of the dog, but if the dog causes any damage to the premises, the dog user or his/her parents/guardians are liable.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures
46a-42 Mobility impaired person
46a-44 through 46a-64 Public accommodations and transportation,
admittance to
Section 504 and the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20
U.S.C. 706(7)(b)
American Disability Act of 1989

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