

# ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

## Background

The District strives to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and others on District property. Further, the District recognizes that there are valid instructional and/or therapeutic reasons for animals to be on District property. This Administrative Procedure speaks to balance these interests.

## Procedures

1. To support the health and safety of students, staff, parents and others on District property, animals are not permitted on District property without the prior, written permission of the Superintendent or designate. This general prohibition includes, but is not limited to, dogs, cats, birds and potentially dangerous exotic animals.
2. The above notwithstanding, animals are permitted to be on District property to support prescribed learning outcomes and/or for therapeutic purposes, again, with the prior written approval of the Superintendent or designate. Animals which may be permitted on District property include but may not be limited to the following:
  - 2.1 Trained service or guide dogs brought by a person with a disability,
  - 2.2 Police dogs under the control of a police officer,
  - 2.3 Well-mannered pets brought for short visits during a day for instructional purposes such as “show and tell” or for a demonstration at a school assembly, and
  - 2.4 Small animals kept in the classroom or school under the supervision and care of a teacher. The teacher shall have a definite instructional purpose for maintaining these animals in the classroom.
3. Small animals maintained in the classrooms or school shall be kept confined in a cage or an aquarium and shall not include larger animals such as dogs or cats.
4. Prior to bringing any animal onto District property, the teacher shall ensure that no children with allergies or who are fearful of the animal will be adversely affected.
5. Animals brought into the school for instructional or therapeutic purposes shall meet the criteria for Assistance Dogs as described in Administrative Procedure 255 Appendix A.
6. While at the school, the animals shall be safely cared for and treated humanely.
7. A plan shall be in place to care for the animal when school is not in session and when the unit of study is completed.

8. The Superintendent may withdraw permission for the animal to be at school or on school grounds at any time if animal hygiene, animal welfare, student safety, or staff safety becomes an issue.
9. All risks associated with animals in schools resides with the pet owner.
10. Any injury or damage the pet causes is the responsibility of the owner.
11. Pet owners/staff are required to carry a minimum \$2,000,000 million 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance that covers the possibility of injures or property damage prior to bringing an animal to work.
12. Animals shall not be allowed to roam freely within the school or district facility setting.
13. Animals shall not be left in schools or other district facilities during holiday periods.
14. Animals shall be housed in suitable sanitary self-contained enclosures appropriate to the size of the animal.
15. Teachers or other designated staff will be responsible for ensuring that all animal enclosures are kept in acceptable sanitary conditions.
16. All refuse or waste pertaining to classroom animals shall be removed using gloves; double plastic bagged and placed in the appropriate receptacle (NB: it must not be left in the room overnight.)

Reference: Sections 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85, 177 School Act

Adopted: June 25, 2019

Revised: January 28, 2020