

Regulation

LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

A. Standards for Use

1. A teacher or other qualified adult supervisor must assume primary responsibility for the purposes and conditions of any study, activity, or performance that involves live animals in school.
2. Each study involving live animals will have as a clearly defined objective the teaching of some biological principle(s).
3. All animals used must be lawfully acquired in accordance with State and local laws, be healthy and free from transmissible diseases, and must have been vaccinated against rabies if susceptible. Proof of vaccination must be provided to the principal or designee before the live animal is brought into the school building.
4. Animals may be handled only by the responsible adult supervisor and the student(s) directly involved in the study or performance.
5. Animals must be properly fed and provided with sanitary cage quarters.
6. When animals are kept on school grounds or in a school building over vacation periods, adequate housing must be provided and a qualified caretaker must be assigned the specific duties of care and feeding.
7. Teachers of students pursuing investigations at other than regular class periods while in school as part of a school assignment or project (such as a school science fair) will be bound by these regulations.
8. The principal or designee must approve a live animal being brought into the school building and the use of any animal in a course of instruction or the establishment of an animal habitat in a classroom.
9. The principal or designee will make a determination that no student in a class where the animal will be housed is allergic to the animal and would suffer an adverse reaction to the animal. The principal or designee should also attempt to determine if any other student in the school building could suffer an adverse reaction. If the Principal or designee determines that there is a student(s) who would suffer an adverse reaction, the principal or designee shall deny approval to have the animal in the school.

B. Injury to Persons

The following steps will be followed in the event a student, staff member, or visitor to school is bitten or scratched by an animal in school. The teaching staff member or adult supervisor in charge will:

1. Take immediate and prudent steps to prevent further injury;
2. Follow/send the injured person to the school nurse for immediate examination (see policy and procedure 5141.1 Accidents, 5141.2 Injuries);
3. Capture (if safe and possible) and impound the animal; and
4. In consultation with the school nurse, contact Board of Health to determine if any further action is required.

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LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL (continued)

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