Using Animals in the Educational Program

Animals, including certified therapy dogs, may be brought into school facilities for educational purposes according to procedures developed by the Superintendent assuring: (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment. See Administrative Procedure 6.120-AP3, *Service Animal*, regarding the use of service animals at school facilities. Emotional support animals are not allowed in school facilities.

Animal Experiments

Experiments on living animals are prohibited; however, behavior studies that do not impair an animal's health or safety are permissible.

Animal Dissection

The dissection of dead animals or parts of dead animals shall be allowed in the classroom only when the dissection exercise contributes to or is a part of an illustration of pertinent study materials. All dissection of animals shall be confined to the classroom and must comply with the School Code.

Students who object to performing, participating in, or observing the dissection of animals are excused from classroom attendance without penalty during times when such activities are taking place. No student will be penalized or disciplined for refusing to perform, participate in, or observe a dissection.

The Superintendent shall inform students of:

1) their right to refrain from performing, participating in, or observing dissection; and

2) which courses contain a dissection unit and which of those courses offers an alternative project.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.122~~,~~ and 5/27-265.~~14, and 112/1.~~

CROSS REF.: 6.40 (Curriculum Development), 6.120-AP3 (Service Animal)

Adopted: May 28, 1997
Reviewed: ~~December 2024~~October 2026
Amended: January 15, 2025