

IMG-R ©

ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes. However, they must be appropriately and humanely cared for, and properly handled. Any person who wishes to bring an animal into the classroom must receive prior permission from the principal. **The following documentation will be provided to the principal, as appropriate, prior to approval and will be kept in the building administrator's office:**

- **The vaccination history of the animal, including proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations;**
- **Proof of current licensure;**
- **Proof that the animal has been spayed or neutered;**
- **Proof of treatment of fleas and ticks; and**
- **Current certificate from a veterinarian that the animal is healthy and disease free.**

The following guidelines shall apply to animals in the schools:

- ~~Prior to granting permission,~~ Teachers should check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies among students in the classroom. If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction.
- Animals shall not be transported on school buses.
- **Animals shall not be transported in other District vehicles without written authorization.**
- Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animals in the classroom.
- Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.
- If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their **proper** care and safety. **The classroom shall be kept clean and free of any animal waste.**

- **The staff member must adhere to local, state, and federal laws and to District policies and regulations regarding such animals.**
- Staff members or students who have been bitten by an animal shall report such incident to the principal and the nurse immediately. The principal should notify the public health authorities if the injury merits medical follow-up. Public health authorities should determine the appropriate action and period of confinement for an animal if an injury results. Any animal involved in a serious injury must be impounded until authorization for release is granted by health authorities. **The owner of the animal is liable for any damage to District or personal property and any injuries to individuals caused by the owner's animal while on District property.**