

Animals may be brought into the school setting for educational purposes only in accordance with the policies of the District and the procedures established by the Superintendent and/or building principal with regard to the presence of animals.

This policy does not apply to service animals. Use of service animals by students, guests, and/or employees will be handled in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and District Policy. Likewise, police and SRO K-9 use will be handled in accordance with applicable school search policies and regulations.

To protect students and staff, the following applies to animals brought into agricultural education facilities for educational purposes. The District Superintendent and/or building principal may place additional guidelines or restrictions upon the presence of specific animals in the school setting. Further, the presence of any animal, whether regularly or periodically housed in an agricultural classroom or brought into the school for an isolated or singular visit, requires timely pre-approval from the building principal.

### Animals Regularly or Periodically Housed on District Property

1. No animal shall be housed on District property without pre-approval from the building principal.
  - a. A teacher seeking to house an animal on District property shall submit such request in writing explaining the educational purpose of having the animal(s) on site. A separate form must be provided for each animal species (to include identification for each animal) to be housed. All information sought on such form must be completed fully and accurately to the best of the employee's knowledge.
  - b. An agriculture education student seeking to house an animal on District property shall submit an application and contract signed by the student, parent or guardian, supervising teacher, and principal or designee.
  - c. The student submitting the application is responsible for providing the primary care of the animal. The supervising teacher shall be responsible for oversight of the animal's care.
2. Prior to exposing any student to a live animal in the classroom, the supervising teacher shall provide written notification to all parents to obtain parental/guardian consent. Copies of the forms shall be maintained in the classroom by the supervising teacher with copies provided to building administration as requested.
3. The supervising teacher who has been granted permission to house an animal(s) on District property shall provide formal classroom instruction to students regarding animal

sanitation and shall require all individuals handling animals to subsequently wash his or her hands thoroughly with soap and water.

4. Any student handling any animal must be directly supervised by the supervising teacher.
  - a. Only the supervising teacher or students designated by the supervising teacher, with proper permission as detailed herein, may handle these animals.
  - b. Handling of any animals should be age appropriate, considering the disease-related risks of certain animals (i.e. hamsters, guinea pigs, and gerbils – salmonella bacteria and lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus; reptiles and amphibians - salmonella bacteria; farm animals – E. coli, salmonella, campylobacter and cryptosporidium).
  - c. Should any student or employee be injured by, including but not limited to, animal bites or scratches associated with the handling of a classroom animal, the supervising teacher is responsible for immediately reporting such event in writing to the building principal and ensuring the student is directed to the school's office for appropriate medical care.
    - i. If appropriate, a District accident/injury report will be completed.
    - ii. School personnel shall notify the student's parent/guardian.
    - iii. If appropriate, school personnel shall notify public health officials.
5. At no time shall any student be exposed to an inherently dangerous animal or any animal, which due to size, nature, or aggression, could cause injury to a student.
6. Animals shall be handled humanely and in a healthy environment. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the supervising teacher shall be responsible for making arrangements for their care and safety.
7. Animals shall be displayed in enclosed cages or tanks or under otherwise appropriate restraints.
8. Animals must be clean and free of intestinal parasites, fleas, ticks and mites.
9. Animals shall not be brought in or obtained from the wild. If sought by the building principal, the supervising teacher shall provide proof of purchase or proof of transfer of the animal in question.
10. Animals maintained in an agricultural classroom shall not have access to or contact with wild animals.
- 11. No "live-feeding" shall occur in the school setting.**
12. The supervising teacher shall be responsible for the proper cleaning and disinfection of any area in which animals are present.
  - a. The supervising teacher, building principal, and custodial personnel shall confer, prior to the animal coming into the school setting to determine any necessary precautions that must be taken for handling animal waste, and cleaning and maintenance in the classroom and/or around the animal.
  - b. The supervising teacher shall be responsible for the disposal of animal waste, using appropriate plastic bags, disposable gloves, and sanitary cleansers.

13. Prior to the animal being brought into the educational setting, the supervising teacher is responsible for assuring that no special permits, licenses, or other requirements (i.e. health/medical certification or examinations) are necessary to own and house the animal. If a permit, license, or other requirement does exist associated with the animal, it is solely the supervising teacher's responsibility to comply with such requirements and to provide the building principal with a copy of documentation ensuring compliance. Any animal not in compliance shall not be brought into the school's setting. Any health care records associated with the animal shall be maintained in the classroom and are the responsibility of the supervising teacher.

14. No animal shall be transported on any school bus.

### **Visiting Animals to the Schools**

1. As part of the agriculture education program, there will be many instances in which an animal is brought into the school setting. Dates, activities, and learning objectives will be found in the teacher's lesson plans. Due to nature, specific scheduling of young animals will be flexible.
2. The animal's owner agrees to hold the District, its employees, and its agents harmless for any injury to the animal, including death, and any injury to any individual, including the handler, school staff, or school student.

### **Animal Dissection**

1. Experiments on living animals are prohibited; however, behavior studies that do not impair an animal's health or safety are permissible after having obtained written pre-approval from the building principal.
  - a. In order to obtain principal approval, the classroom teacher must submit a written request providing details as to the behavior study to be conducted, the manner and details of the study, and how the health and welfare of students and the animal will be safeguarded.
  - b. Such request shall be submitted no later than five school days prior to the desired start of the behavior study.
2. The dissection of dead animals or parts of dead animals shall be allowed in a classroom only when the dissection exercise contributes to, or is part of, the approved educational program of the classroom.
  - a. Dates, activities, and learning objectives will be found in the teacher's lesson plans.
  - b. All dissection of animals and the parts of dissected animals shall be confined to the classroom.

- c. Agriculture science classes are elective courses. Learning from animals is inherent in animal science classes. Participation in all activities will be agreed upon in the parental agreement at the beginning of class.

### **Prohibited Animals**

1. Regardless of the desired educational purpose, the following live animals are prohibited in the agricultural education facility at any time or for purpose:
  - a. Any venomous or toxin producing animals;
  - b. Any animal on the Idaho Invasive Species List for which proper state permitting and documentation of ownership has not been obtained prior to classroom housing (i.e. Snapping Turtle, Red Eared Slider, Mediterranean Gecko, Brahminy Blind Snake, Monk Parakeet, and Nutria).
2. The building principal may prohibit any animal from being present on school property on an individual case by case basis.

### **Health and Vaccination Requirements**

1. Prior to bringing certain animals into a school building, current health records and/or proof of current vaccinations is required as follows:
  - a. Ferrets: A health certificate from a licensed veterinarian showing proof of current vaccination against rabies. The District may also request proof of a negative fecal exam or successful treatment for intestinal parasites within the last six months.
  - b. Psittacine Birds (parrots, parakeets, budgies and cockatiels): A health certificate from a licensed veterinarian showing proof of treatment or negative test results for psittacosis (avian chlamydiosis).
2. Due to the health management focus of the agricultural education program, common farm animals and companion pets may be in the classroom/lab space for the purpose to receive medication and vaccinations.
3. The Superintendent shall make the final determination as to whether or not any animal may be present upon school property. When making such a determination the primary factor of consideration shall first be the health and welfare of students.