

*Existing policy, adopted 6/20/22 appropriate as written.*

## **Instruction**

### **Live Animals in the Classroom**

#### **Service Animals (Including Guide or Assistance Dogs)**

The Board of Education does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. The District will comply with state and federal law concerning the rights of persons with guide or assistance dogs, and will permit such animals on school premises and on school transportation.

#### **Other Animals**

The Board of Education recognizes that there are medical and physical dangers associated with animals, both wild and domesticated, in the classroom and/or on school property. The Board also recognizes that under proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. The following guidelines are adopted regarding all animals (mammals, birds, reptiles/amphibians, fish, and insects) in the classroom or on school property.

- All requests to have animals in the classroom or on school property must be submitted to the Principal in writing. Included in the request should be a description of the activity, type of animal, educational purpose/benefit, length of activity and a plan for the care of the animal. The Principal has the discretion to permit or deny the presence of animals.
- Parents/guardians must be notified in writing prior to any activity involving animals.
- Students and teachers with allergies must receive special consideration before animals are brought into school. Prior to any exposure to animals in school, the teacher should be aware of any condition such as allergies which could be exacerbated by exposure to animals. Appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be accorded to protect the health of such individuals.
- All requests to take field trips involving animals must be submitted to the Principal in writing. In determining whether to grant the request, the Principal shall be guided by the district policy on field trips and shall also take into consideration any known allergies among the students and the possible side effects of the planned exposure to animals.
- No domesticated animals, including dogs, cats, primates or livestock, shall be allowed in schools unless proof of appropriate and/or current rabies vaccination is provided. Any domesticated mammal that is too young to be immunized for rabies will not be handled by students.
- No wild animal (e.g., skunks, raccoons, bats, ground hogs, monkeys or fox) shall be allowed unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animals (e.g., zoo keepers, docents, veterinarians, etc.).
- All animals brought for exhibit must be restrained by the owner/handler.
- No poisonous animals are allowed unless brought in cages/containers that prevent contact with students and faculty.
- Each teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students under his/her direction whenever there is an exhibit or activity involving animals in the school.

## **Instruction**

### **Live Animals in the Classroom**

#### **Service Animals (Including Guide or Assistance Dogs) (continued)**

- Animals will be allowed to be housed in classrooms only for a specified and appropriate educational purpose ~~of~~ and for the time necessary to achieve the educational goal.
- It is the responsibility of the teacher to provide a plan for care for classroom-housed animals, including care on weekends and during emergency closure. No animals shall be housed at school unless the teacher involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding, and handling of the animals. All waste products must be cleaned from cages on a daily basis by an adult such as a teacher, assistant, volunteer, etc. Cages will not be cleaned by students, and students will not have direct contact with animal waste products.
- Each teacher is responsible for the proper control of animals brought to the classroom for instructional purposes, including the effective protection of students. This includes keeping the animals in appropriate cages or containers for the protection of the animal and individuals.
- No animals will be allowed free range in the facility.
- Supervised hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water will be conducted by students after handling animals. Hand washing will be conducted immediately after the activity has ended and prior to any further school or classroom activity. Eating/drinking will not be allowed during the animal exhibition or during activities involving animals.
- The Principal and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible if an individual is bitten by an animal or any incident occurs which could have an adverse effect on physical or emotional health. The supervising teacher will complete a written report describing the incident.

Legal References:      Connecticut General Statutes  
                                 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.  
                                 46a-42 Mobility impaired person  
                                 46a-44 through 46a-64 Public accommodations and transportation,  
                                 admittance to. (Access of guide and assistance dogs to modes of public  
                                 transportation and in places of public accommodation.  
                                 Section 504 and the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20  
                                 U.S.C. 706(7)(b), 29 U.S.C. 705 (20), 794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; G.S. 130A-  
                                 185, 168 article 1, 168A-3 through -7.  
                                 American Disability Act, U.S. C12101 *et seq.*, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35.  
                                 Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*  
                                 28 C.F.R. Parts 35 & 36, “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities in  
                                 State and Local Government Services; Final Rules”

Policy adopted:      ~~June 20, 2022~~

**WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Woodbridge, Connecticut