



We help students thrive and dreams come alive

GUIDELINES FOR ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

Site Administrators will create procedures and conditions for animals to be allowed in their schools for educational purposes. All conditions and procedures will meet the requirements listed below:

- Site administrators must grant permission prior to an animal being allowed in the school.
- Parents or guardians will be notified in advance of any animals that will be brought or kept in the school. This should include parents or guardians of any student who will be within the room throughout the day where the animal will be housed, or where the animal will visit.
- The medical needs or health concerns of a student or staff member shall be considered a priority when evaluating the need for the presence of animals in the classroom.
- If the student has a severe allergy to an animal that is being used for curriculum purposes (like in science class) the student will be given the option of participating in class in another way to meet the class requirements.
- The Following animals will not be allowed in school:
 - Cats- due to allergy concerns
 - Turtles- due to salmonella concerns
 - Baby ducks or chicks- due to salmonella concerns
 - Poisonous animals- some spiders, snakes, venomous insects
 - Aggressive animals
 - Stray animals
- Animals should be brought to school for curriculum-related purposes only.
 - Exceptions are made for seeing-eye dogs and other service dogs
 - If a seeing-eye dog, or service-dog is scheduled to come to a school with a student or staff member, the principal may need to notify parents and guardians
- All interactions between animals and students in the classroom will be supervised.
- Animals will not be allowed in food preparation, storage, or eating areas.
- Thorough hand washing with soap and water will take place after any contact with animals, their equipment, or cages.

- The following conditions must be met for safety and sanitation purposes:
 - Caged Animals:
 - Cages must be kept on a table, counter, or shelves, and set in a metal, plastic, or cardboard tray with a plastic liner
 - If the cage has a built-in bottom, it may be placed on the floor
 - Owners of the animals are responsible for feeding, watering, and cage-cleaning functions. These functions may be delegated to a specified person who accepts the responsibility
 - Cleaning and disposal of cage contents should be done frequently with gloves. Bacteria and allergen in the urine and feces should be considered
 - Visiting Animals:
 - Dogs must be accompanied by copies of their vaccination dates against rabies, distemper, and parvovirus.
 - When possible, it is preferable for students to go outside and visit an animal, rather than have an animal visit the students in the building.
 - Even after the animal has left, much of the animal dander remains in the room or hallway
 - All interactions between the animal and student's will be supervised by the owner of the animal

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF PROFESSIONAL THERAPY DOGS

The Role and Purpose of Certified Professional Therapy Dogs

Professional therapy dogs, certified with their owner/handler as a certified therapy dog, provide emotional and physical support in the educational setting. These highly trained dogs model good behavior, tolerance, and acceptance. All certified therapy dogs in ISD 271 work to support and positively influence student achievement.

1. Professional Therapy Dog Definition:
 - a. Professional therapy dogs are dogs trained and tested to provide specific physical or therapeutic functions under the direction and control of a qualified handler.
 - b. A professional therapy dog has been trained, temperament tested, and certified as a professional therapy dog by an approved therapy dog certification organization. The building principal shall make the final determination regarding approval of the therapy dog certification organization.
 - c. Professional therapy dogs may be owned by the District or by professional educators who wish to use a professional therapy dog to augment his/her educational program.

2. Professional Therapy Dog Documentation:

- a. Administrative Approval: The use of a professional therapy dog must be approved by the building principal and assistant superintendent (see Therapy Dog Approval Form).
- b. Health Records and Hygiene/Animal Care: The owner/handler must provide a record of annual vaccinations received by the dog and signed by a veterinarian; these records should be kept on file at the building and the assistant superintendent's office.
- c. Professional Therapy Dog Certification: A copy of the notice of professional therapy dog certification from an approved certification organization must be kept on file at the building and with the assistant superintendent.

Note: The privilege to bring the dog into the school setting may be terminated by building and/or district administration at any time.

Health Services
Eileen Kern
11/14

Updated
Assistant Supt.
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