

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

EMG
(REGULATION)

REQUIREMENTS

All animals brought into the school must:

- be in good physical condition;
- be vaccinated, if applicable (written proof of vaccination must be available);
- be kept in clean, safe and suitable cages or containers or otherwise appropriately controlled (animals are not allowed to roam the classroom);
- be obtained and/or certified as healthy by a licensed animal supplier or veterinarian; and
- be lawfully acquired in accordance with state and federal laws.

RESTRICTIONS

- Venomous or vicious animals or known carriers of the rabies virus are prohibited.
- Birds shall not be kept in the school unless they have been tested and certified as psittacosis-free.
- Known carriers of salmonella shall not be kept in a classroom unless the supplier/veterinarian provides written documentation that the animal is disease free.
- Wild animals shall not be brought into the classroom unless they are under direct supervision of a trained representative of a conservation agency or public zoo.
- Stray animals are not permitted inside a school or classroom.
- No animals may be transported in a District school bus, with the exception of animals used to assist disabled students.

INSIDE THE
CLASSROOM

- Before any animal is brought into the classroom, a note must be sent home to the parents inquiring about any type of allergic reactions the children may have. No animal shall be permitted in the classroom where an allergic student may be exposed.
- The animal shall remain in the classroom only for the number of days needed for instructional purposes.
- The teacher shall provide a written plan for the proper care, sanitation, feeding and handling of the animal. Include the estimated duration of the animals stay on the written plan.

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- The teacher shall be responsible for the animal's care in the event of any school closure to include weekend and holiday care.
- The teacher must thoroughly research each animal and be aware of the potential dangers that they may pose.
- Education with animals should be used to reemphasize proper hygiene and hand washing recommendations. All children that want to handle the classroom animals must be properly trained in advance.
- Children shall not be allowed to handle or clean up any form of animal waste. Animal waste must be disposed of properly.
- Anytime a classroom animal bites or scratches a person, the teacher is required to notify the nurse, as well as the principal. The nurse will notify the parent if appropriate.