

MISCELLANEOUS - ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Staff members shall adhere to the following guidelines when the principal has authorized animals or insects to be brought to or housed in, the classroom.

1. Animals should be selected that suit specific instructional needs. The animal should be practical to care for in the classroom with no or minimal modification. Staff shall make arrangements to provide care during weekends, long holiday breaks and during emergency school closings.
2. Fur bearing animals may be allergenic. Staff members must determine whether any student who will be exposed to the animal has an allergy to that type of animal. The animal shall not be housed in a classroom where there is a student with such an allergy. Because of the prevalence of animal—induced allergies among children, it may be more prudent to house the animal in an unoccupied area. At any time, if it is suspected that a student or staff members has had an allergic response to the animal, the animal shall be removed from the classroom, or if necessary, from the building.
3. Inoculation is required by law for all large domestic animals (such as dogs or cats). Any person bringing a large domestic animal to a classroom must present evidence of a current vaccination against rabies to the school principal prior to the animal's arrival at school. Information on requirements for rabies may be obtained by the Beltrami County Health Department. The cost of the inoculation shall be at the owner's expense.
4. Handling of animals should be limited to that which is necessary, such as teacher—supervised instructional activities, i.e., feeding, watering, and cleaning of the animal housing. Unless the animal is part of a specific learning activity, it should remain in its cage or housing. Animals shall not be allowed to roam freely in the classroom.
5. Teachers must emphasize the importance of proper hand washing immediately after handling any animal.
6. All animal bites, stings, or scratches shall be reported immediately to the principal and local health authorities should be consulted for advice.

RESTRICTIONS

1. Aggressive animals shall be prohibited.
2. Parrots, parakeets, and other birds may be carriers of human respiratory diseases and shall not be kept in schools.
3. Painted turtles are known carriers of salmonella, an infectious organism, and shall not be kept in a classroom. Many other reptiles also harbor salmonella bacteria. Therefore, reptiles and amphibians must be handled cautiously.

ISD NO. 31

SBR 900-50-1

ORIGINAL: 20 DECEMBER 2004

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4. Bats, raccoons, ferrets, and skunks are not suitable for school use.
5. Poisonous animals and insects are prohibited.
6. Wild animals shall not be brought into the classroom unless they are under the direct supervision of a trained representative of a conservation agency or public zoo.
7. Insects that sting or bite shall not be intentionally brought into the classroom. The venom of some insects may cause a sensitivity reaction among some people.