

Animals in the Classroom

Code #383.00

The Tri-County Area School District may allow *animals to be brought into the classroom for education purposes, but only under conditions which insure the health and safety of children, staff and the well-being of the animals. The animals must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled. Persons bringing animals on District property must receive prior permission from the classroom teacher and principal.

Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane, proper treatment of any animal in the classroom. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.

If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and safety. Furthermore, written notice will be provided to parents in regards to any animals that stay in the classroom throughout the school year.

Animals are not to be transported on school buses.

All experiments using live animals must have prior approval of the principal.

Bringing animals on school grounds (outside the school building) is prohibited without prior permission from the principal.

Service animals such as a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained or is being trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability are permitted on school property.

If an animal is brought on school grounds or to a school function by a student or a member of the public, school staff may ask the following questions:

1. If the animal is required because of a disability; and
2. What work or task(s) the animal has been trained to perform.

School staff shall not ask about the nature or extent of the person's disability. School staff should not make any inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform task(s) for an individual with a disability. (e.g., a dog observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair or providing assistant with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability.) In addition, school staff shall not request that the animal demonstrate the work or task that it is

trained to perform.

The District may ask an individual to remove a service animal from the premises if:

1. The animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it;
2. The animal is not housebroken; or
3. The service animal "whose behavior or history evidences" a direct threat to the health and safety of those present.

If a service animal is removed for any of the reasons set forth above, the District shall give the affected individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal present.

*Animals (All living species, such as birds, frogs, etc.)

Prior Approval:	June 27, 2006
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