

# ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

## Background

The District strives to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and others on District property. Further, the District recognizes that there are valid instructional and/or therapeutic reasons for animals to be on District property. This Administrative Procedure speaks to balance these interests.

## Procedures

1. To support the health and safety of students, staff, parents and others on District property, animals are not permitted on District property without the prior, written permission of the Principal. This general prohibition includes, but is not limited to, dogs, cats, birds and potentially dangerous exotic animals.
2. The above notwithstanding, animals are permitted to be on District property to support prescribed learning outcomes and/or for therapeutic purposes, again, with the prior written approval of the Principal. Animals which may be permitted on District property include but may not be limited to the following:
  - 2.1 Trained service or guide dogs brought by a person with a disability, - see Appendix A: Dogs in Schools – Guidelines for Employees
  - 2.2 Police dogs under the control of a police officer,
  - 2.3 Employees or volunteers who bring dogs to schools to reduce stress/anxiety, foster interpersonal connections and promote the overall-social-emotional well-being of students, - see Appendix A: Dogs in Schools – Guidelines for Employees;
  - 2.4 Well-mannered pets brought for short visits during a day for instructional purposes such as “show and tell” or for a demonstration at a school assembly, and
  - 2.5 Small animals kept in the classroom or school under the supervision and care of a teacher. The teacher shall have a definite instructional purpose for maintaining these animals in the classroom.
3. Small animals maintained in the classrooms or school shall be kept confined in a cage or an aquarium and shall not include larger animals such as dogs or cats.
4. Animals shall not be allowed to roam freely in the school.
5. Prior to bringing any animal onto District property, the teacher shall ensure:
  - 5.1 That no children with allergies or who are fearful of the animal will be adversely affected.
  - 5.2 The animals are free from disease and parasites,

- 5.3 Students are instructed in the proper care and handling of the animal, and
- 5.4 A plan shall be in place to care for the animal when school is not in session, including weekends and holidays and when the unit of study is completed.
6. Animals brought into the school for instructional or therapeutic purposes shall be healthy, under the teacher's care and control, or that of a responsible adult, and highly unlikely to scratch or bite.
7. While at the school, the animals shall be safely cared for and treated humanely. The teacher or a responsible adult shall ensure that animals are housed in suitable, sanitary, self-contained enclosures appropriate to the size of the animals (as per SPCA guidelines).
8. The Superintendent, may withdraw permission for the animal to be at school or on school grounds at any time if animal hygiene, animal welfare, student safety, or staff safety becomes an issue.

Reference: Sections 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85, 177 School Act

Adopted: November 2019

Revised: