

SCHOOL FACILITIES

School Property

ANIMALS

I. General Policy

A. In order to provide a safe working and learning environment, the District's policy regarding animals on District property and/or in District facilities, including school buses, is set forth below. The District will not permit animals on District property and/or facilities by students, employees, faculty or visitors unless the guidelines set forth below are met.

B. No animals will be permitted on District property and/or facilities, including buses, unless the owner or responsible parties comply with the restrictions set forth herein and have followed the proper procedure to obtain the necessary authorization. Each principal or the designated individual in charge of the District facility in question ("designee") may promulgate a list of animals that may be permitted at each school without authorization and subject to any stated restrictions, such as containment, etc.

II. PROCEDURES FOR LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM/SCHOOL

A. All requests to have animals in the classroom or in District facilities must be submitted to the principal or the designee in writing. The request should include a description of the activity, type of animal(s), educational purpose/benefit, length of activity, and a plan for caring for or monitoring the animal(s).

B. All faculty and/or staff must have approval from the principal or designee for the use of live animals in the classroom before such animal can be displayed or presented unless such animal has been previously approved by the principal or designee on a designated list.

C. Animals that are fetid, vicious, venomous, or exhibit other dangerous characteristics are not permitted in schools, or on District property unless the animals are appropriately confined to prevent contact with students, faculty, and staff.

D. No domesticated mammals, such as dogs, cats, or primates, shall be allowed in schools unless proof of appropriate and/or current rabies vaccination is provided. Students will not handle any domesticated mammal that is too young to be immunized for rabies. The appropriate faculty or staff member must be present

when animals are taken out of a cage and handled by students.

E. Students, staff and faculty with allergies must receive special consideration before animals are brought into a school. Prior to any exposure to animals in school, the faculty or staff member in charge shall inquire of participants in the activity if they have any condition such as allergies, which could be exacerbated by exposure to animals. Appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be accorded to protect the health of such individuals.

F. No wild animals or hybrids animals (skunks, raccoons, badgers, lynx, bobcats, bats, snakes, monkeys, coyotes, fox, wolves, wolf hybrids, etc.) shall be allowed unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animals (zookeepers, docents, veterinarians, etc.).

III. GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE ANIMALS

A. Service animals are permitted on District property and/or facilities, including school buses, for persons with disabilities. "Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items." 28 C.F.R. § 36.104. Service animals whose behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or is disruptive to the teaching environment may be excluded at the time of the threat/disruption, regardless of training or certification.

B. Non-service animals, including pets, are not permitted on District property and/or facilities unless otherwise authorized for classroom/school purposes.

C. Any request for use of a service animal, whether by a student, staff member, or faculty, should be directed to the applicable school principal for approval. Service animals for students, staff members, or faculty, necessary to accommodate a disability will be permitted based upon documentation supporting the assistance of the service animal.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR OWNERS AND/OR RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Any owner and/or responsible party approved by the principal or designee for use of an animal(s) on District property and/or on District facilities must comply with the following:

1. The animal must have owner identification with it at all times, i.e., identification tags or contact information on containment.
2. The owner and/or responsible party must be in full control of the animal at all

times.

3. The animal must be on a leash or appropriately contained at all times.
4. The owner and/or responsible party must be responsible for clean up of the animal's waste at all times, including necessary supplies and proper disposal.
5. Faculty or staff should instruct students in the safe handling and/or treatment of the animals, as well as the proper hygiene procedures after handling any animal.
6. Hand washing will be conducted immediately after handling of animals has ended and prior to any further school or classroom activity. Eating/drinking will not be allowed during the animal exhibition or during activities involving the handling of animals.
7. It is the responsibility of the faculty or staff to provide a plan for care of classroom-housed animals including care on weekends and during emergency closure. No animals shall be housed at school unless a faculty or staff member involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding, and handling of the animals. An adult such as a teacher, assistant, volunteer, etc., must clean all waste products from cages on a regular basis using a germicidal cleaner.
8. No animals will be allowed to roam in or upon any District facility or on District property unless properly restrained or contained. If necessary, the appropriate local law enforcement authorities will be contacted for animals roaming at large on District property. Faculty, staff, or students should not approach any animal discovered roaming at large.
9. The principal or designee, school nurse and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible if an animal bites an individual or any incident occurs which could have an adverse effect on physical or emotional health. The supervising faculty or staff member will complete a written report describing the incident.
10. Animals are not to be transported on school buses, except for service animals.

V. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Animals used for law enforcement are not subject to the requirements of this policy.

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 10, 2009

Revised on: July 19, 2010