

**SERIES 300
INSTRUCTION**

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ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL

Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes, but only under conditions which insure the safety of the children and the well being of the animal. All animals must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for and properly handled. Prior permission must be received from the supervising teacher and the principal before any animal shall be brought into the school. All animals must have had proper inoculations and may not be transported on school buses.

If the principal receives a parent complaint, or becomes aware of potentially harmful health or safety concerns, adverse smells or disruptive sounds regarding the animal, he/she will take appropriate action which may include having the animal removed from the school.

Teachers considering allowing animals in the classroom must check for any known allergies among the students in the class that could be aggravated by exposure to a particular animal. If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction before an animal is brought in.

Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animal. The teacher must assume primary responsibility for the humane treatment of the animal while in the room. 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. If a staff member or student has been bitten by an animal and the skin is pierced, the incident must be reported immediately to the school office by the supervising adult. The principal will notify the public health authorities, who will determine the appropriate action regarding the animal.

Date of Adoption: November 19, 1997