

Policy

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Domesticated animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes which include activities related to interest, handling experience, enrichment, in addition to a purely academic, subject matter approach. All animals permitted in the school shall be supervised, maintained and cared for in such a way as to ensure the safety of children and the wellbeing of the animal.

The principal shall approve all requests for live animals in classrooms. Guidelines as established by the American Humane Association, "Care and Management of Animal Visitors at School," shall be followed by classroom teachers wishing to have animals in the classroom. Animals are to be in good health.

Animals must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for and handled, according to the following guidelines:

- A. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals;
- B. 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;
- C. Teachers with questions regarding proper care, feeding and handling of animals should contact the science resource teacher or the principal;
- D. The teacher must assume responsibility for the humane proper treatment of any animal in the classroom.

Permission to Bring Animals to School

Persons bringing animals into the school shall receive prior permission from the teacher and the principal.

- A. Teachers shall check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies existing among students in the classroom, prior to granting permission. If allergies exist parents must be contacted for further direction;
- B. Teachers must be aware of any existing laws regulating sale, distribution, and handling of animals;
- C. Animals are not to be transported on a school bus;
- D. All experiments using live animals must have prior approval of the principal according to existing law;
- E. If an animal has bitten a staff member or student where skin has been pierced, the teacher must report the incident immediately to the school office:
 - 1. The principal assumes all responsibility to:
 - a. Notify public health authorities; and
 - b. Impound the animal for observation.
 - 2. Public health authorities will determine the appropriate term of confinement of the animal and method of observation.

Permission shall not be granted if any child or staff member has allergies or immune deficiencies that make them especially susceptible to diseases transmitted by animals or allergic reactions. The school nurse shall be consulted before an animal may be brought into the classroom and precautions taken to minimize health risks to the staff and students.

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM (continued)Injury to Persons

The following steps will be followed in the event a student, staff member, or visitor to school is bitten or scratched by an animal in school. The teaching staff member or adult supervisor in charge will:

- A. Take immediate and prudent steps to prevent further injury;
- B. Follow/send the injured person to the school nurse for immediate examination (see policy and procedure 5141.1 Accidents, 5141.2 Injuries); and
- C. Capture (if safe and possible) and impound the animal;
- D. In consultation with the school nurse, contact the local board of health to determine if any further action is required.

NJSBA Review/Update: September 2017
 Adopted: September 12, 2019

Key Words

Animals, Animals in the Classroom

<u>Cross References:</u>	*5141	Student health
	*5141.1	Accidents
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.21	Administration of medication
	*5142	Student Safety
	*6010	Goals and objectives
	*6140	Curriculum adoption
	*6142	Subject fields
	*6145	Extracurricular activities

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.