**Animals in the School**

Purpose: To ensure a safe, orderly and healthful environment for students, staff and animals. The policy will aid in the control of transmittable diseases and will ensure that the presence of animals on school grounds will not be a source of illness for any student.

**Animals Brought on School Grounds for a Short Term Day Visit**

No animal, living or dead, will be brought to school without prior authorization. Students must obtain permission from their teacher. Staff will obtain prior authorization from the principal. Arrangements 24 hours in advance will be acceptable.

Proof (from a veterinarian) of compliance with immunizations for any disease that can be transmitted to humans shall be filed with the office in advance. All mammals will be properly vaccinated. Rabies vaccination is required for any mammal. Any mammal that cannot be vaccinated or is considered non-vaccinated in the event of a bite, will be properly contained and no student physical contact will be allowed.

Each animal must remain under control of the responsible adult at all times. The animal will be contained on a leash or in a suitable carrier. Transportation to and from school will be the responsibility of parent/guardian or other adult. Animals are not to be transported on school buses.

No wild animals or protected animals will be purposefully brought to the building or on school grounds by anyone other than an authorized or licensed animal handler. There will be no physical contact between the animal and students unless it is an integral part of the objectives for the outside authorized program with prior approval received from the Principal.

**Animals Considered as Resident Class Pets**

The teacher will communicate with the nurse before sending questionnaire/permission slip to parents of students in classroom where class pet is being considered. Alternative learning experience will be sought in the event of a medical contraindication.

Approval from the Principal is required prior to establishing resident animals in the classroom.

Classroom pets that are mammals and have an unknown history must undergo a quarantine period

of two weeks before student contact is allowed. Curriculum developed by the teacher will include proper handling guidelines. Pets will not be allowed near facial areas. Hand washing will occur immediately after handling any animals.

Teachers assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animal in the classroom.

Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.

When school is not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for any resident animal’s or animals’ care and safety.

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