School District of Florence County Board of Education Policy Chapter: Reference:

Instruction ING

Date:

October 16, 1984

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ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL

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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.

Teachers considering allowing animals in the classroom must check for any known allergies among the students in the class. 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.

Approved: October 16, 1984

Reviewed by Committee: 12/1/93, 1/25/94, 2/23/87

GUIDELINES FOR HAVING LIVE ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The School District of Florence County believes there are educational and psychosocial benefits to having live animals in the classroom. Live animals may be brought on school property for educational purposes only, but under conditions which ensure the safety of the children, staff, guests and the well-being of the animal. **Prior approval must be received from the principal/designee before any live animal shall be brought on school property.** All live animals must have up-to-date vaccinations (e.g. rabies, distemper, etc.) and may not be transported on school buses. Adherence to guidelines must be followed with respect to having live animals present on school property.

Unacceptable live animals on school property include:

- Wild animals especially those at high risk for rabies.
- Poisonous animals such as snakes, spiders, and venomous insects.
- Wolf hybrids (cross between wolf and dog).
- Stray animals (cats, dogs, and especially those less than 1 year of age).
- Baby ducks and chicks because of the high risk of salmonellosis and campylobacterosis, unless permitted for curriculum purposes at the high school level subject to conditions set forth in this rule including taking all necessary precautions to insure the health and safety of students and staff.
- Aggressive animals (e.g. ferrets, bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes)-due to the possibility of transmitting rabies.

*The following animals are allowed, but extra care and containment/restriction <u>MUST</u> be taken:

- Birds (due to possibility of transmitting psittacosis) Birds must be kept in a cage.
 Exception for removal from cage only permitted by an adult with expertise in handling live birds.
- Reptiles and amphibians (including turtles, lizards and frogs, due to the risk of salmonella infection) – Reptiles/amphibians may be brought into the classroom as part of the curriculum, but animals must be kept in a secured container. If the animals are removed for integration in the classroom, <u>staff and students will wear disposable</u> gloves when handling and thoroughly wash hands immediately after the activity.

Those classroom activities tied to the curriculum and/or school forest are allowed, but students are to wear disposable gloves and thoroughly wash hands immediately after any activity where animals are handled as part of the curriculum

Verification of Animal Wellness and Vaccination

1.	The animal being brought into the classroom has the required vaccinations (shall be provided upon request), is free of any illness or infestations, and has no aggressive tendencies.
2.	I understand that neither the School District of Florence County nor its employees will be held responsible for the animal and will not attend to the animal in any manner.
3.	I will be responsible for any damage by the animal.
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4.	I will abide by the "Guidelines for Having Live Animals on School Property"
Signat	ure of Owner/Caretaker Date
*The o	original copy of this form must be submitted to the school principal.

Animals on School Premises Parent/Guardian Information and Consent

Date	
From: (Teacher)	
Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):	
As your child's teacher, I am planning to bring an animal into our classroom as described below:	
Type of animal(s):	
Location/enclosure:	
Length of Time animal will be at school:	
Board policy permit animals to be brought into the classroom for educational purposes. Board policy also requires that conditions must be safe for all children and the animal.	
We are aware some children may have health problems when they are near animals, most specifically allergic reactions.	
If your child is known to have any allergic reactions, they will not be permitted to touch or be in close proximity to the animal(s).	
If you notice any observable symptoms or other concerns, please notify both the building principal and me immediately so an alternative plan and/or accommodations can be made.	
Sincerely,	
Teacher Name	

Attachment – Board Policy ING & Rule 1