

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 campylobacteriosis, 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 MUST 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, **staff and students will wear disposable 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.
4. I will abide by the "Guidelines for Having Live Animals on School Property"

Signature of Owner/Caretaker

Date

**The 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