

INSTRUCTION

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

No student shall bring any live animal, whether pet or wild, to any classroom without prior consent of the teacher and the Principal, in order to protect both the animal and the students. Included in the request should be a description of the activity, type of animal, educational purpose/benefit, length of activity, and a plan for the care of the animal. The Principal, in consultation with the Coordinators of Science and Nursing, has the discretion to permit or deny the presence of animals. The owner of the animal assumes the risk to the animal.

Teachers may bring and maintain goldfish or tropical fish in suitable bowls or tanks, but turtles, birds, snakes, or other animals which might present a health hazard shall not be allowed without the approval of the Principal, and then only for class observation and study for a limited period of time. It is the responsibility of the teacher to provide a plan of care for classroom-housed animals including care on weekends and during emergency closure. No animals shall be housed at school unless the teacher involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding, and handling of the animals.

Parents/guardians must be notified in writing prior to any activity involving animals.

Students and teachers with allergies must receive special consideration before animals are brought into a school. Prior to any exposure to animals in school, the teacher should be aware of any condition such as allergies which could be exacerbated by exposure to animals. Appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be accorded to protect the health of such individuals.

Seeing-eye (Guide), hearing and service dogs are permitted on school buses and in school facilities to perform the functions for which they are trained. Such animal must wear a "harness or an orange-colored leash and collar which makes it readily identifiable as a guide dog" that is licensed. Fees cannot be assessed due to the presence of the dog, but if the dog causes any damage to the premises, the dog user or his/her parents/guardians are liable.

The School Principal, prior to authorizing a program involving the exhibition of wild animals, shall request and review the following documents:

- Exhibitor's license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (mammals only).
- An official interstate health certificate signed by a veterinarian and dated no earlier than 60 days prior to entry into Connecticut (mammals only).
- Permit from the DEP Wildlife Division authorizing the exhibitor to import or possess a wild bird, wild mammal, reptile, amphibian or invertebrate (where applicable).
- Exhibitor's certificate of liability insurance to cover the specific event (typically for \$1 million).

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- List and description of the animals to be exhibited.
- Exhibitor's written statement that describes how the animals will be exhibited and how the animals will be securely confined when not on display. The statement should address safety concerns to prevent wild animals from having direct contact with people and to preclude the public from approaching wild animals.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

46a-42 Mobility impaired person

46a-44 through 46a-64 Public accommodations and transportation, admittance to service animals

Section 504 and the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20 U.S.C. 706(7)(b)

American Disability Act of 1989

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