



INSTRUCTION

Animals as Part of the Instructional Program

- A. There should be a clear instructional or therapeutic purpose for keeping an animal in a school classroom or for having animals visit school campus.
- B. No animals are allowed in ESD schools without the express written permission of the school's principal. Written permission must also be obtained from the principal before animals are brought to school by any person. If students wish to bring domesticated animals (pets) to school for educational purposes, they must consult with their teacher(s) who, in turn, will request permission from the principal. See Animal in the Classroom Form 2029F.
- C. The teacher should notify parents of planned use of animals in the classroom so that student and staff allergies may be considered. If a student or staff member exhibits an allergic reaction, the animal should be removed.
- D. No pets will be allowed in school unless proof of current required vaccinations (if appropriate) is provided.
- E. All animals brought to school/school events must be supervised and restrained by the owner/handler. The teacher is responsible for the proper supervision of students whenever there is an exhibit or activity involving animals in school. Hand washing by staff and students is required after handling animals and before eating.
- F. The animal's owner/handler is personally responsible for cleaning up all messes the animal may make, including properly disposing of waste in indoors and outdoor areas of the campus.
- G. If a student or staff member is bitten/injured by an animal on school premises, the principal, school nurse, and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible. The principal must notify appropriate public health authorities of each incident.
- H. ESD recognizes that service animals are used to assist individuals with disabilities. This policy does not apply to service animals that have been or are being specially trained for this purpose.
- I. The administration has the authority to exclude persons and their animals from school property when it is determined that there are associated health and/or safety concerns.

Overview of Animals as Part of the Instructional Program:

Service Animals

- The use of service animals is not subject to the restrictions. Restricting the presence of service animals on campus is subject only to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, its regulations, and corresponding provisions of State law.

Therapy Dogs:

- Dogs are not allowed in the school or classroom unless they are serving as a licensed ADA service dog, approved service dog training program, Delta Society registered therapy dog or a therapy dog to a staff member, parent, child or visitor.
- The Delta Society registration indicates the animal has been tested for appropriate temperament to handle a school environment, is healthy, and is covered under Delta Society's liability insurance. Delta Society requires the handler to be present and in control of the animal at all times. If the handler is not present and in control, the insurance is void. Keep in mind, "in control" means that, in the presence of other people, the handler has their hands on the leash and/or on the animal at all times.
- In all cases, an up to date vaccination record must be provided for the animal.
- Whenever a dog is on the campus, the dog must be kept on a leash at all times in accordance with King County Code 11.04.230. The dog owner is responsible for caring for the dog, and ensuring the safe and responsible behavior of the dog. The dog owner is also personally responsible for cleaning up all messes the dog may make, including properly disposing of waste the dog leaves in outdoor areas of campus.
- King County Code requires that dog bites will be reported to the King County Health Department and the dog may be placed in quarantine for 10 days.
- The owner or handler of any animal, including a service animal, is responsible for the animal's behavior and shall be liable for all damages suffered by persons who may be bitten or injured, and all damages to public or private property, regardless of the former viciousness of the animal or the owner's knowledge of such viciousness.

All Animals - Short Term Visits:

- During school hours, no animal will be brought to school without prior authorization. In the event of a short term visit (e.g. naturalist docent visit, student sharing family pet, etc.) permission must be obtained 24 hours before the visit. This will be done on a case-by-case basis with teacher and administration approval required.
- 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.

- Should any student or adult be bitten by an animal at school, a health care provider and the local health officer shall be immediately notified. In addition, in the case of a child, parents will be called. A copy of the incident report (signed by the principal) will be sent to the involved family with personally identifiable information involving other children redacted as needed.
- Any animal brought to school must remain under control of the responsible adult at all times. The animal will be contained on a leash or in suitable carrier. This applies to days when school is in session, prior to the start of school and for an hour after school is dismissed.
- Transportation to and from school will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian or other adult. Animals are not to be transported on school buses or other school vehicle.

All Animals – Classroom Pets:

- The classroom teacher will communicate with the school nurse/district nurse before seeking permission from the Principal requesting a resident animal.
- Permission of the Principal is required prior to establishing resident animals in the classroom. All teachers will fill out an Animal in the Classroom Form 2029 prior to the introduction of an animal in the classroom. Permission must be granted annually and is subject to revocation at any time.
- Animals within the school will be handled, treated, and housed in a humane manner. Teachers assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animal in their classroom. Animals will be kept in an environment appropriate to the species. Habitats will be maintained and cleaned regularly by staff not students. When school is not in session for more than three days, the teacher must make arrangements for any resident animals' care and safety.

References:

Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Section 38.302
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
VSA, Title 9, Chp. 139: Discrimination and Public Accommodations

Resources

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (www.aaaai.org)
www.animalethics.wa.edu.au
Secord, D.C., and Rowsell, H.C. Proper use of Animals in Schools.
OSPI-DOH School Health and Safety Guide, Dec. 2000

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