

## **ANIMALS IN CLASSROOMS**

Furred, feathered, or reptilian animals shall only be allowed in classrooms for educational purposes. At no time will animals that are considered dangerous be brought into the classrooms. Fish in aquariums are exempt from the educational requirement; however, they must be of a reasonable size and quantity.

Service dogs are permitted in the school and on school buses to perform the functions for which they are trained. A dog's laminated identification card may be requested for verification.

The principal has the authority to determine if it is appropriate to bring an animal into the classroom.

When an animal is to be brought into a classroom a note will be sent home with the students of that class notifying the parents that an animal will be present. If known in advance this will be done at the beginning of the school year. Parents are to notify the teacher or principal if their student is allergic to the animal. Upon such notice, the principal will confer with the teacher and determine what options are available which may include changing to a different species with no allergy problems or not having an animal in the classroom. The school will not reveal the name of the student with allergy issues to students or parents. If after an animal is brought into the classroom, the parent finds their student is allergic to the animal, the school will work with the parent and teacher to resolve the issue.

No live animal will be allowed to stay in a classroom longer than one (1) semester or during an extended school break of more than three (3) days. Fish in aquariums are exempt from this requirement.

Cages and aquariums shall be cleaned by the teacher in charge of the animal on a routine basis to avoid offensive odors or pest issues. Students shall not be permitted clean cages or aquariums. If necessary, the custodial staff will clean all surfaces in the classroom to remove any animal dander that may still cause an allergic reaction by the student.

When appropriate, teachers may allow students to handle and/or feed the animals.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 410 I.A.C. 33-4-7