

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES  
NON-SERVICE ANIMALS

EMG  
(REGULATION)

NON-SERVICE  
ANIMALS IN THE  
CLASSROOM

Teachers and students must be aware of the responsibility involved in having live animals in the classroom. These guidelines are to assist when live animals are introduced in the classroom or laboratory for specific study units.

From the National Science Teachers Association: "As with any instructional activity, the use of non-human animals in the Biology classroom must have sound educational objectives. Any use of animals, whether for observation or dissection, must convey substantive knowledge of Biology."

The following guidelines apply to any live animals that should be considered as any amphibian, bird, fish, insect, mammal, reptile, and the like:

1. Teachers sponsoring or supervising the use of live animals in instructional activities including acquisition, care, and disposal will adhere to local, state and national laws, policies, regulations, and guidelines regarding the animals.
2. Student class work and science projects involving live animals must be under the direct supervision of a science teacher or other trained professional. Teachers should be familiar with the species and should involve only animals that are considered safe, nonvenomous, or not dangerous.
3. Acquisition of live animals should be through the teaching professional. Students should not be encouraged to "capture" animals for classroom participation. Live animals should be maintained for educational study purposes and not just as classroom "pets."
4. Animals that "live" in the classroom should be treated with care and respect while sharing the living space with students. Animals should always be treated humanely.
5. Students should notify the teacher and receive permission prior to bringing any animal from home to the classroom in order to avoid potentially dangerous situations before they occur.
6. Care of animals must be appropriate to the species. Only science teachers should bring in food sources or equipment for the animals.
7. Teachers must instruct students on safety precautions for handling live animals or animal species. Live animals brought into the classroom should be carefully observed by a science instructor. The health and safety of the students and animals

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- must be priority during this classroom activity. Handling of animals should be kept to a minimum. Students should be encouraged to not allow animals near the face, eyes, or neck.
8. Teachers must be aware of any allergies or asthma conditions students may have toward live animals. Teachers must immediately report to the school nurse any student's medical conditions due to handling animals.
  9. Students should wear personal protective equipment when caring for animals, especially nondomesticated, as some animals may carry diseases and organisms that transmit to humans. Teachers should be aware that organisms and diseases such as fleas, lice, mites, salmonella, and others can be transmitted to students who handle classroom animals. Keeping cages clean of fecal matter will reduce the presence of bacteria that may cause illnesses.
  10. Cages and tanks should always have door locks or clamps on lids that are constantly in place to avoid "escapes." Approved glass tanks or metal cages should be used.
  11. Teachers must always insist that students wash their hands before feeding an animal, after they have handled an animal, or have touched materials from the animal's cage. A written log should be developed of handling and hand washing.
  12. Teachers should develop a cage/tank cleaning cycle with written procedures for cleaning protocols and a date log of when the cage or tank has been cleaned. Cages and tanks should be cleaned weekly, but this cycle may depend on the size and nature of animals and number of animals kept in cages or in tanks. Tanks with any type of water feature should be cleaned weekly.
  13. Classroom housekeeping should be well maintained. Animal food and other items should be kept properly sealed to avoid spoilage or pest infestation. Equipment and other items should be properly organized and should be put away out of student and teacher areas.
  14. If required, filters, heat pads, or heat lamps for animal tanks should be plugged directly into the wall or a surge protector at all times. Extension cords should not be used.
  15. Any required chemicals needed for animal care must be kept away from students and under lock and key. A safety data sheet (SDS) should be obtained on chemicals if possible. A campus administrator should approve any items being brought to class.

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16. Plans for future care of animals at the conclusion of the study must be developed and implemented. No animals should be left in the classroom during holiday or summer breaks.

Any situation deemed unhealthy or inappropriate will be addressed by an administrator with the help of the safety and risk manager, and the instructor may be asked to remove the animals and supplies from the classroom.

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**Note:\*\*\*** Partial information included from NSTA: Guidelines for Responsible Use of Animals in the Classroom

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NON-SERVICE  
ANIMALS ON SCHOOL  
PREMISES NOT  
INVOLVED IN  
CLASSROOM  
ACTIVITIES

Established District instruction and security programs may occasionally necessitate bringing live animals onto campus or facilities as an integral part of the curriculum. Outside of those instances, animals will not be brought on campus or to school facilities because of the potential for disruption and concern for student and staff safety and health.

Only animals that have been approved by a campus or facility administrator for curriculum purposes may be allowed on campus. Safety for students and staff will be primary in the approval and decision process.

Service animals that provide assistance or a service to a person with a disability are permitted. [See FBA(LEGAL) for information regarding service animals]

In all instances, students and educators will value animals, practice humane treatment of animals, and support the ethical use of animals.