

1 **USE OF ANIMALS IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

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3 Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) encourages the selective, planned, appropriate, safe, and
4 humane inclusion of animals in the instructional program to achieve instructional goals. ACPS
5 follows the guidelines provided by the Virginia Department of Education for responsible use of
6 live animals and dissection. The scientifically appropriate use of animals in the classroom
7 laboratory under qualified adult supervision is permitted as part of the curriculum for learning
8 purposes.
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10 **Training**

11 Teachers who keep animals in their classrooms ensure that the animals are properly cared for and
12 safely handled. ACPS arranges for training of staff in the proper care and handling of animals to
13 achieve instructional goals. ACPS staff who are not properly trained in such safe practices are
14 prohibited from housing animals in their classrooms.
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16 **Vendors**

17 Animals and handlers in contracted shows must follow ACPS policy including IMG-R -
18 Regulations for the Use of Animals in the Instructional Program
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20 **Service Animals in Schools**

21 Service animals are permitted in schools in accordance with Policy KKA - Service Animals in
22 Public Schools
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24 **Animals as part of the ACPS Instructional Program**

25 Animals that are part of the ACPS instructional program are permitted even if those animals are
26 prohibited for general classroom use. The use of animals must be consistent with regulation
27 IMG-R - Regulations for the Use of Animals in the Instructional Program.
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29 **Allergies**

30 Some students, staff, and family members may be allergic to certain animals. Staff who bring
31 animals into the school must have a plan for how the staff members will accommodate students
32 with allergies to the animal.
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34 Adopted: November 30, 2023
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36 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 51.5-44
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38 Cross Refs.: IGAK Alternatives to Animal Dissection
39 KKA - Service Animals in Public Schools
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41 Guidelines: VDOE Safety in Science Teaching (2023)
42 Guidelines for Animals in North Carolina Schools, North Carolina Division of
43 Public Health Guidelines, Animals in Schools, April 2006
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45 Virginia Department of Health, Animal Contact and Human Health
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MMWR, Recommendations and Reports, July 6, 2007/ 56(RR05); 18-19,
Guidelines for Animals in School Settings,