

## **PROCEDURE – ANIMALS as part of INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM 2029P**

### **Animals on School Grounds**

1. No animals are allowed on school grounds unless pre-authorized by the Principal of the school.
2. Trained dog guides or service animals in use by a person with a disability are allowed on school grounds.
3. Other Animals may be brought onto school grounds for educational purposes only.
4. Signs shall be posted on school grounds to alert persons that animals are not allowed on school grounds unless approved by the Principal of the school.

### **Animals in Schools**

1. There must be an educational benefit to be gained by the inclusion of the animal in the instructional program. The principal shall approve the Instructional purpose for each animal in school, and no animal shall come into a school without the principal's prior written approval. If the request is approved, the Superintendent or designee and the District Safety Officer will be notified before any animal is brought onto school grounds.
2. Before introducing any animal(s) into the classroom, the teacher shall ascertain the following:
  - a. The building Principal has approved the animal to be on school grounds.
  - b. Students and school personnel are not allergic to the animal(s).
  - c. The animal(s) will present no physical danger to students.
  - d. The animal's health, safety and well-being have been appropriately evaluated and students will be instructed in the proper care and handling of the animal(s).
3. Animals shall not be allowed to roam freely within the school or on school grounds.
4. Animals shall be housed in suitable, sanitary, self-contained enclosures appropriate to the size of the animal, or the animal shall be kept on a leash.
5. Teachers will be responsible for ensuring that animal enclosures are kept in sanitary condition.
6. Animals shall not be left in schools during holiday periods.
7. Dogs and cats brought to school must have a health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.
8. Students shall not transport any form of animal on a school bus.
9. Students and staff shall not bring dead animals to school for any reason. Teachers may secure such animals for study from a reliable science supply house.

### **General Guidelines for Animals in Schools**

Animals brought onto school grounds shall be clean and healthy so that the risk of transmitting diseases to students is minimal. Children tend to be more susceptible to zoonotic diseases (diseases which can be transferred from animals to man) and parasites than adults as they are less likely to carefully wash hands and are more apt to put their hands in their mouths. Animals that children handle should be well groomed and free of internal parasites and disease. All animals should be free of external parasites such as fleas, ticks, and mites to decrease the likelihood of the animal transmitting these vectors to students or staff.

### **Proper Restraint of Animals**

No animal shall be allowed to roam unrestrained on school grounds or in classrooms. Animals may react strangely to classroom situations, and there must be an effective way to control them. Fear may cause an animal to attempt to escape or even act aggressively in situations that are unusual to them. Appropriate restraint devices allow the holder to react quickly and prevent harm to the students or escape of the animal.

- a. All animals shall be restricted to the area designated by the Principal.
- b. Collars and Leashes: Dogs and cats should wear a proper collar, harness, and/or leash when on school grounds or in the classroom so that they can be easily controlled. Household rope or string is not considered an appropriate restraint tool. The owner or person responsible for the animal should stay with the animal during its visit to the school.
- c. Birds should never be allowed to fly free in a classroom.

### **Special Conditions for Specific Animals**

- **Parrots, Parakeets, Budgies, and Cockatiels** can carry zoonotic diseases such as psittacosis and shall not be handled by children in school.
- **Ferrets** can visit in a classroom but must be handled only by the person responsible for them. Children shall not handle or hold ferrets due to the animal's propensity to bite when startled.
- **Reptiles and Amphibians** can carry salmonellosis, even when reared as pets or for display, and they shall not be handled by children in school except under close adult supervision. No turtles with a carapace (shell) length less than four inches are allowed in schools.
- **ALWAYS WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER HANDLING REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**
- **Fish** aquariums are to be cleaned regularly, and disposable gloves should be worn when cleaning. Used tank water should be disposed of in sinks that do not supply drinking water for students or staff.
- **Trained Dog Guide, and other Service Animals and Law Enforcement Animals** shall be allowed on school grounds and in classroom situations as required law. Under Washington law, "dog guide" means a dog that is trained for

the purpose of guiding blind persons or a dog that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person's sensory, mental or physical disability. The Principal may ask the person if the animal is a service animal, what training the animal has received, and what service the animal provides.

### **Animals Not Allowed in Schools**

- **Wild Animals** pose a risk for transmitting rabies as well as other zoonotic diseases and shall not be brought to schools or handled by children. Exceptions may be made if wild animals are presented at school by professionals who have experience handling wildlife. **Bats, raccoons, skunks, and wild carnivores have a high incidence of rabies and shall not be permitted on school grounds under any circumstances (including recently killed animals).**
- **Poisonous Animals** such as spiders, venomous insects, poisonous snakes, reptiles, and lizards shall be prohibited from being on school grounds. Exceptions may be made if these animals are presented at school by professionals who have experience handling them.
- **Wolf-Hybrids** are crosses between a wolf and a dog and shall not be brought to school because they have shown a propensity for aggression, especially toward young children.
- **Stray Animals** shall not be brought onto school grounds because the health and vaccination status of these animals is not known.
- **Baby Chicks and Ducks** shall not be allowed on school grounds due to the high risk of salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis.
- **Aggressive Animals** that are bred or trained to demonstrate aggression toward humans and/or animals or animals which have demonstrated similar aggression in the past shall not be permitted on school grounds. Aggressive, unprovoked, or threatening behavior mandates an animal's immediate removal from school grounds.

## Procedure for Approval of Animals in School

### Classroom Pet

**BEFORE** bringing any pet to stay in the classroom, the employee must submit a completed **CLASSROOM PET REQUEST** form to the Principal. The form includes the following information:

- Location of pet, cage/other containment device
- Educational Objective
- Plan of Care
- Safety and Health Considerations

The Principal will review the **CLASSROOM PET REQUEST**. If the request is approved, the Principal will give the signed approval to the teacher, and the animal may be housed in the classroom. If procedures established in this policy are not followed, the Principal may rescind the approval and require the employee to remove the pet from the classroom.

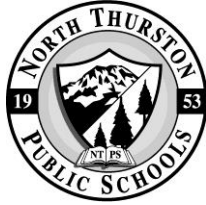
### Visiting Animal

**BEFORE** allowing any animal to visit in the classroom, the teacher must submit a completed **VISITING ANIMAL REQUEST** form to the Principal. The form includes the following information:

- Educational Objective
- Plan of Care
- Safety and Health Considerations

The Principal will review the **VISITING ANIMAL REQUEST**. If the request is approved, the Principal will give the signed approval to the teacher and the animal may visit in the classroom. If procedures established in this policy are not followed, the Principal may rescind the approval and have the pet removed from the classroom.

Implemented:	December 13, 2011	North Thurston Public Schools
Reviewed	October 6, 2020	Human Resources



**NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**CLASSROOM PET REQUEST**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Requested : \_\_\_\_\_ ( type of animal)

**Educational Objective:**

Describe the educational benefits of having this animal (pet) in the classroom:

---

---

---

---

**Plan of Care:**

Describe the feeding and care requirements of this animal:

---

---

---

---

What equipment and materials will need to be obtained to care for and house/contain the animal?

---

---

---

Are licensing and inoculations (shots) required for this animal? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what are the requirements?

---

Who will be responsible for daily feeding and care? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will care for the animal on weekends? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will care for the animal during school breaks and holidays?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long do you intend to keep the animal? \_\_\_\_\_

What will become of the animal at the end of the project/school year?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Safety and Health Considerations:**

What human safety and health concerns are associated with this animal?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What personal protective equipment is required to handle and care for the animal?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How are parents/guardians to be notified of intent to house pet in classroom?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there students in the classroom with allergies, animal sensitivities, or special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what precautions will be taken to accommodate them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval**

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

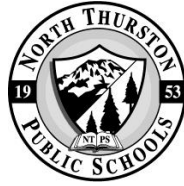
Approved  Not Approved  Conditionally Approved  (see attached)

**Before Animal Arrives Send Copy to:**

Head Custodian \_\_\_\_\_

School Nurse \_\_\_\_\_

Risk Management \_\_\_\_\_



### NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### VISITING ANIMAL REQUEST

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner or responsible person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number(s) of responsible person:



- Type of Animal:
- Household pet
  - Captive Wild Animal
  - Exotic
  - Farm Animal
  - Bird
  - Other
  - Purpose of Visit: Show and Tell
  - Meet Curriculum objective

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of proposed visit: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Educational Objective:

Describe the educational benefits of having this animal visit the classroom or school: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The animal will be exhibited:

In the classroom

On campus outside the classroom

**Plan of Care:**

Is responsible person licensed or certified to possess and/or handle this animal?

---

Describe the feeding and care requirements of this animal while it is on campus.

---

---

What equipment and materials will be needed to accommodate the animal while it is on campus? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Are licensing and inoculations (shots) required for this animal? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, are the license and inoculations current? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will be responsible to clean up after the animal? \_\_\_\_\_

**Safety and Health Considerations:**

What human safety and health concerns are associated with this animal?

---

What (if any) special precautions need to be taken to display or exhibit this animal?

---

What personal protective equipment is required to handle the animal?

---

How are parents/guardians to be notified of intent to have a pet visit in classroom?

---

Are there students in the classroom with allergies, animal sensitivities, or special needs? \_\_\_\_\_



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval:**

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved       Not Approved       Conditionally Approved  (see attached)

**ONE WEEK BEFORE** Animal Arrives Send Copy to:

Head Custodian \_\_\_\_\_

School Nurse \_\_\_\_\_

Risk Management \_\_\_\_\_