

## **Instruction**

### **Live Animals in the Classroom**

The presence of an animal room enables science students to observe living examples of animal species which are being studied in the classroom. It provides an opportunity for students to study the characteristic behaviors, feeding habits, communication techniques and breeding habits of various animal species. It encourages them to initiate independent projects to study a particular animal characteristic in depth. It helps students to develop respect for animals and an understanding of the value of diversity of animal species in nature. It encourages them to investigate career options in zoology, veterinary medicine, and animal husbandry.

#### **1. Responsibility for Animals**

- a. All animals purchased by the Amity Science Department or offspring of such animals are the property of the Amity Science Department.
- b. Supervision must be by a teacher who is knowledgeable about biology, the care and husbandry of the species being studied, and research methods.
- c. The teacher is responsible for planning and conducting demonstrations involving live animals and must closely supervise student projects involving live animals.
- d. The teacher must ensure that only authorized persons have contact with the animals or access to their care facilities.

#### **2. Acquisition and Disbursement of Animals**

- a. All animals owned by the Amity Science Department will be obtained from reputable animal supply houses.
- b. Students may, with the permission of the supervising teacher, bring in a pet animal which they own for the purposes of a special project. The time period which the pet may remain at Amity is for the duration of the project. All applicable regulations regarding responsibility, care and treatment, health, handling, and student projects are in effect for student-owned animals. The supervising teacher may set any additional guidelines deemed necessary for student-owned animals.
- c. Animals owned by the Amity Science Department will be donated to a reputable animal supply house when they are no long used in the science program.

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### **Live Animals in the Classroom** (continued)

#### **3. Care and Treatment of Animals**

- a. Animal must be treated in a humane fashion.
- b. The supervising teacher must acquire the knowledge of care appropriate to the species being used. This includes housing, food, and exercise. Printed material describing the care of each species must be kept on file.
- c. Animal quarters must be spacious and avoid overcrowding.
- d. The animal care facilities must be kept clean and sanitary. Animal waste must be removed from the cages according to a prescribed schedule, and gloves must be worn when cleaning the cages. Food and water containers must be cleaned according to a prescribed schedule.
- e. Food must be appropriate to the animal's normal diet and of sufficient quantity and balance to maintain a good standard of nutrition at all times. Clean drinking water always shall be available.
- f. Adequate provision for care shall be made at all times, including vacations.
- g. Written instructions for the care and feeding of each species of animal must be available for the animals' caretakers, and animal caretakers must be trained before they assume their responsibilities.
- h. Written permission must be given by parents/guardians before a student may take home an animal deemed appropriate for care over weekends/holidays/vacations.

#### **4. Health**

- a. The teacher must insure that living animals brought into the school and used in the classroom are healthy and free from transmittable disease or other problems that may endanger human health.
  - (1) For animals purchased by the Amity Science Department, a certificate documenting the animal's inoculations and examination by a veterinarian will be supplied at the time of purchase, when appropriate.
  - (2) For a pet brought in by a student, the student must supply proof of the animal's inoculations and examination by a veterinarian, when appropriate.

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#### **4. Health** (continued)

- b. Persons infected with any disease microorganisms must not come in contact with the animals.
- c. Any animal suspected of being ill must be isolated from the other animals and from the students and must receive treatment from a veterinarian.
- d. Persons must wear gloves when handling animals and must wash their hands after handling animals.
  - (1) Heavy work gloves or leather gloves should be worn when handling animals with teeth, fangs, or beaks.
  - (2) Latex rubber gloves should be worn in all other situations.
- e. In most circumstances, plants will not be kept in the room where the animals are housed. Any plants which are housed with the animals will not have pesticides applied to them.

#### **5. Handling of Animals**

- a. Students must be instructed in the proper method for handling a given species of animal before being allowed contact with the animal.
- b. Students will handle animals only under the direct supervision of the teacher.
- c. Gloves always should be worn when handling animals, as described in section 4d.

#### **6. Student Studies and Projects Involving Animals**

- a. Student studies/projects will be of a noninvasive nature and will be restricted to measuring and studying normal physiological functions, such as normal growth, activity cycles, metabolism, blood circulation, learning processes, normal behavior, reproduction, or communication.
- b. No study will be undertaken that may cause the animal pain, suffering or discomfort, or otherwise interfere with its normal health.

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#### 6. Student Studies and Projects Involving Animals (continued)

- c. Palatable food shall be provided in sufficient quantity to maintain normal growth. Diets deficient in essential foods are prohibited. Food should not be withheld for more than 12 hours. Clean drinking water shall be available at all times (and shall not be replaced by alcohol or drugs).
- d. Animal behavior studies should use only reward (such as providing food) and not punishment in training programs.
- e. The teacher must approve all student projects/studies before they are started.
- f. The teacher must directly supervise the project/study, oversee all experimental procedures, be responsible for their non-hazardous nature and shall personally inspect experimental animals during the course of the study to ensure that their health and comfort are fully sustained.
- g. No animal studies shall be conducted at home other than observations of normal behavior of pet animals or of animals in their nature habitat.