

Handler Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Type/Breed/Color: \_\_\_\_\_

## BRINGING ANIMALS ON TO CAMPUS

Bringing animals and children together has both risks and benefits. Animals in school should be carefully chosen regarding health and safety risks, temperament, training and educational benefit. A trained service animal is any breed and size of dog trained to provide a task directly related to a person's disability. Service dogs are allowed onto district property and inside buildings by law and district policy. A service dog is different from a support or therapy animal. Support or therapy animals may be approved on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the requirements for all animals at school.

The district's duty is to protect students. If the building administrator determines that student safety is compromised or that the animal is unsafe, they may deny access for the animal. A "no pets" policy is ok; service animals must be allowed.

An animal may be removed if it causes disruption, is not controlled, is poorly behaved or poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Review the following checklist when deciding whether to approve an animal onto a district campus:

**Animal handler** has provided the following:

- ☐ A. Proof of license and vaccination for dogs and cats in accordance with state and local laws (current rabies; health certificate from a licensed veterinarian).
- ☐ B. Animal is clean and healthy.
- ☐ C. Confirmation that animal is housebroken or has proper cage/bedding and there is a plan in place for cleaning cage and surrounding area.
- ☐ D. Information on the training the animal has undergone. Note: Service animals are not required to go through a professional training program nor required to wear a vest or other identification. Human Resources will review staff accommodation requests. For students requesting a service animal for a disability, the building administrator will consult with the section 504 coordinator. Organizations available to provide Therapy Dog Certification include Pet Partners, Therapy Dogs International and Alliance of Therapy Dogs.
- ☐ E. Insurance coverage for the animal.
- ☐ F. If the handler is a volunteer, complete and approved Bellingham Public Schools Volunteer Application.

**Building administrator** has completed the following:

- ☐ A. Introduced the animal with staff and students who will be in contact with the animal (including building custodial staff).
- ☐ B. Consulted with school nurse and counselor to identify any students or staff with allergies or fears/trauma and developed plans to address.
- ☐ C. For service animals, developed a plan to integrate the animal into transportation, field trips, emergency and evacuation planning. For support animals and animals as part of instruction, develop an emergency and evacuation plan.

- ☐ D. Received approval:
  1. For animals as part of instruction/class, reviewed with supervisor.
  2. For student requesting service animal, reviewed with section 504 coordinator.
  3. For staff requesting service animal or support animal, referred to Human Resources.
- ☐ E. Connected with communications and community relations department for class, student, staff and family messaging and/or signage if needed.

**While on campus:**

Building administrator and animal handler will work together to ensure:

- ☐ A. A plan is followed to address allergies and fears/trauma related to the presence of an animal.
- ☐ B. Safe behavior and hygiene. Staff and students will wash their hands after contact.
- ☐ C. Animal stays in designated areas and remains out of cafeteria unless designated service animal.

**Handler is responsible for the following:**

- ☐ A. Immediate control of the animal. The handler ensures the animal is harnessed, leashed, tethered at the appropriate length or in a proper cage or handler maintains control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective control.
- ☐ B. Behavior of the animal. The handler monitors the animal and environment to ensure there is appropriate human and animal interaction and for distress signals.
- ☐ C. Cleanliness of the animal. The handler makes sure the animal is taken outside regularly to relieve itself (if applicable) and all waste created by the animal is cleaned up and properly disposed of.
- ☐ D. Health of the animal. The handler will notify the principal when the animal has an infection or is in heat.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Building Administrator Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_ will be responsible for animal, all costs for any damages caused by the animal such as clean up, repairs, etc. are paid.

\_\_\_\_\_ agrees to handler responsibilities while animal is on campus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Handler Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

References:

<http://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet>

U.S. Department of Justice, Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington State, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Department of Health (DOH)