

Instruction

Animals at School

Use of Animals for Instructional Purposes

Before any student or employee brings an animal to school for an instructional purpose, he/she shall receive written permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall give such permission only after he/she has provided written notification to all parents/guardians of student in the affected class, asking them to verify whether their child has any known allergies, asthma, or other health condition that may be aggravated by the animal's presence. When a parent/guardian has provided notification that his/her child has an allergy, asthma, or other health condition that may be aggravated by the animal, the principal shall take appropriate measures to protect the student from exposure to the animal.

(cf. 3514 –Environmental Safety)

(cf. 5141.21 – Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions)

(cf. 5141.23 – Asthma Management)

All animals brought to school must be in good physical condition and must be appropriately immunized. The principal or designee shall ensure that the species of animal is appropriate for the instructional purpose and age and maturity of the students.

All animals brought to school shall be adequately fed, effectively controlled, humanely treated, and properly housed in cages or containers suitable for the species. The principal or designee shall ensure that cages and containers are cleaned regularly and that waste materials are removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Small animals, reptiles, etc., must remain in cages or containers, unless they need to be removed for instructional purposes.

Students bringing animals to school must first obtain the consent of the teacher and the parent/guardian. The principal or designee shall ensure that students receive instructions regarding the proper handling of and personal hygiene around animals.

(cf. 5141.22 – Infectious Diseases)

Animals shall not be brought to school on school buses without express permission of the principal or designee. Such permission shall not be required for seeing-eye dogs or service dogs needed by students.

Instruction

Animals at School (continued)

Except for service animals, as defined below, all animals are prohibited on school transportation services. (Education Code 39839; 13 CCR 1216)

(cf. 3541.2 – Transportation for Students with Disabilities
(cf. 5131.1 – Bus Conduct)

Students shall not bring poisonous or wild animals to school. If wildlife specimens are used in a biology class, protective gloves and a face shield shall be worn by anyone handling these specimens and the animals' saliva and neurological tissue shall be treated as infectious.

Animals brought to school by students shall generally be taken home the same day they are brought to school. If a student's animal is to be left in the classroom overnight, arrangements shall be made in advance between the principal, teacher, parent and student.

Use of Service Animals by Individuals with Disabilities

For an individual with a disability, service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks related to the individual's disability and for his/her benefit. For example, for an individual who is blind or has low vision, a service animal would mean a dog that helps him/her with vision, navigations, and other tasks. For an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, a service animal would mean a dog that alerts him/her to the presence of people or sound. For an individual with psychiatric or neurological disabilities, a service animal would mean a dog that assists him/her by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. (28 CFR 35.104)

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied on school premises and on school transportation by service animals, including specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.2.28 CFR 35.136)

(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3541.2 – Transportation for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 6159 – Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6164.6 – Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Instruction

Animals at School (continued)

The Superintendent or designee may ask any individual with a disability to remove his/her service animal from school premises or transportation if the animal is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control it, or the animal is not housebroken. When an individual's service animal is excluded, he/she shall be given an opportunity to participate in the service program or activity without having the service animal present. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.2.28; CFR 35.136)

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