

Timberlane Regional School District	Policy Code: IMG
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ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

The Board recognizes that under the proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. Principals must approve all requests to bring animals to school. In order to protect both children and animals, the following guidelines are adopted for use in all schools in the district.

1. The bringing of animals into the classroom must not violate city/state/federal ordinances.
2. The only animals and animal products (e.g., owl feces for dissection) allowed in a classroom must be for a specific and appropriate educational purpose and shall be allowed for the amount of time necessary to achieve the educational goal.
3. Precautions should be taken to minimize transmission of all diseases and injuries (e.g., Salmonella, rabies, ringworm, bites, scratches, etc.)
4. All animals must be in good physical condition and vaccinated against transmittable diseases. Dogs, cats, ferrets will require proof of original and booster rabies vaccination.
5. Special consideration should be given to the effect of furred and feathered animals on allergic children and staff before bringing the animals into the classroom.
6. The teacher will responsible for the proper control of animals brought to school for instructional purposes, including the effective protection of children when animals are in the school. This will include keeping the animal in an appropriate cage or container and handling fecal material in a sanitary manner.
7. No animals are to be allowed to run freely in the classrooms, food areas or activity areas.
8. All fecal material must be cleaned from the cage of any mammal or rodent on as needed basis (at a minimum of one time per week) and appropriate sanitizer used. Reptiles, fish and insects must be cared for in a manner to minimize odor and maintain health. Persons cleaning cages must wear gloves, masks and glasses or goggles.

It will be the responsibility of the teacher to provide for a plan of care for the classroom housed animals in the event of an emergency school closing which might cause disruption of the routine care of the animals. In each school where these animals are housed, there should be a plan whereby the staff member who visits the school daily during the emergency closing will be aware of the animals' presence and see to their care. If no staff member visits the school daily in such circumstances, the teacher is responsible for the daily care of the animals.

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Teachers must be contacted prior to having animals in their classrooms. No animal shall be at school unless the teacher involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding and handling of that animal and of any potential dangers caused by that animal. Many different diseases and afflictions may be transmitted by animal hair, dander, bites and fecal material. It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to become familiar with each animal as it relates to the well being of the individual students in the particular classroom.

The principal must approve of any animals to be housed in the classroom. At the principal's discretion, permission to keep the animal may be denied based on such things as:

1. the purpose for the animal's presence;
2. the ability of the teacher to control the animal;
3. the past practice in the classroom; and
4. any allergic reaction of the children and staff.

Unauthorized Animals on School Grounds

Unauthorized Animals are not allowed in school buildings or on school grounds. Children and staff will be instructed to keep their own animals off school grounds. The appropriate town official will be called and requested to impound all animals taken into custody by school personnel.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures stating which animals are unauthorized as well as proper handling and caging procedures of animals in buildings or on school grounds.