

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL COORPORATION

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

File: ING

### **ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL AND SCHOOL EVENTS**

Live animals with the exception of fish in aquariums are only to be in the school for educational purposes. No live animal will be allowed to stay in a classroom longer than a [semester] or during an extended school break of more than two (2) days. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher should take reasonable steps for their care and safety. At no time will animals considered dangerous be brought into the classrooms.

No animals are allowed at VCSC approved events without the express written permission of the school's principal. Written permission must also be obtained from the principal before animals are brought to school by any person.

Service dogs are permitted on school buses and in classrooms to perform the functions for which they are trained. A dog's laminated identification card may be requested for verification.

When an animal is to be brought into a classroom a note will be sent home with the students of that class notifying the parents that an animal will be present. If known in advance this will be done at the beginning of the school year. Parents are to notify the teacher or principal if their student is allergic to the animal. Upon such notice, the principal will confer with the teacher and determine what options are available which may include changing to a different species with no allergy problems or not having an animal in the classroom. The school will not reveal the name of the student with allergy issues to students or parents. If after an animal is brought into the classroom, the parent finds their student is allergic to the animal, the school will work with the parent and teacher to resolve the issue. If necessary, housekeeping will clean all surfaces in the classroom to remove any animal dander that may still cause an allergic reaction by the student.

Examples of educational purposes where animals would be in the classroom are:

- 1) Animals used in health class to demonstrate effects of different diets.
- 2) Animals used in biology to show developmental changes or diversity.
- 3) Eggs incubated to show development.

Examples of educational purposes where animals are in the classroom for one day or less:

- 1) Pets/animals brought into the classroom to allow students exposure to a variety of species.
- 2) Pets/animals used to demonstrate obedience training.

The principal, when requested by a teacher, has the authority to determine if it is appropriate to bring an animal into the classroom.

Cleaning: Cages shall be cleaned by the teacher in charge of the animal and not any student on a routine basis to avoid offensive odors or pest issues. Aquariums with fish are to be maintained by the teacher in charge of the aquarium including cleaning as needed.

When appropriate, teachers may allow students to handle and/or feed the animals.

If a staff member or student has been bitten by an animal where skin has been pierced, the incident must be reported immediately to the school office by the supervising adult. Principals are to assume responsibility to notify public health authorities and to impound the animal for observation. Public health authorities will determine the appropriate term of confinement of the animal and method of observation.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 410 I.A.C. 33-4-7

DATE ADOPTED: November 10, 1976; Revised: April 13, 2009; Revised January 23, 2012; Revised: January 23, 2017