

SCOTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Policy

Instruction

Live Animals in the Classroom

Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes but not permanently for the school year. However, they must be appropriately and humanely cared for, and properly handled. Any person who wishes to bring an animal into the classroom must receive prior permission from the Principal. The following guidelines shall apply to animals in the schools:

- Prior to granting permission, teachers should check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies among students in the classroom. If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction.
- Animals shall not be transported on school buses.
- Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animals in the classroom.
- Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.
- If animals are to be kept in the classroom for an approved short period, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and safety when classes are not in session.
- Staff members or students who have been bitten by an animal shall report such incident to the Principal and the nurse immediately. The Principal should notify the public health authorities if the injury merits medical follow-up. Public health authorities should determine the appropriate action and period of confinement for an animal if an injury results. Any animal involved in a serious injury must be impounded until authorization for release is granted by health authorities.

Seeing-eye (Guide), hearing and service dogs are permitted on school buses and in school facilities to perform the functions for which they are trained. Such animal must wear a “harness or an orange-colored leash and collar which makes it readily identifiable as a guide dog” that is licensed. Fees cannot be assessed due to the presence of the dog, but if the dog causes any damage to the premises, the dog user or her/her parents/guardians are liable.

No electrical devices are permitted, including but not limited to, filters, heat lamps, water pumps, etc. for the maintenance and/or care of animals.

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(cf. 6163.32 – Service Animals)

Legal reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures
46a-42 Mobility impaired person
46a-44 through 46a-64 Public accommodations and transportation,
Admittance to
Section 504 and the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20
U.S.C. 706(7)(b)
American Disability Act of 1989