

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Animals can be effective teaching aids, and the benefits of the human-animal bond are well established. However, animals in the classroom necessitate certain safeguards. Because diseases can be transmitted from animals to people, consideration should be given to potential health issues before bringing animals into the classroom.

The following criteria shall be met prior to bringing an animal into the classroom:

- Clear parent/guardian notification guidelines and safety protocols will be in place before allowing animals in the classroom.
- Classroom pets or visiting animals must be in good health.
- Pets or visiting animals shall have documentation from a veterinarian or an animal shelter to show that the animals are fully immunized (if the animal should be so protected), and the animal is suitable for contact with children.
- Teaching staff will supervise all interactions between children and animals and instruct children about safe behavior when in close proximity to animals.
- School nurse will be notified, prior to pet or visiting animals entering the school, to make sure that any child who is allergic to a type of animal is not exposed to that animal.

No wild animal, no matter how tame, will be brought into a classroom except under the direct supervision of a qualified animal care professional. No reptiles will be allowed as classroom pets because of the risk of salmonella infection.

Parents, students, and teachers must make a written request to the building principal one (1) week prior to the animal visit. The principal will give final approval for all animal visits.

REF: Mass. Dept. of Public Health 2007, Comprehensive School Health Manual, Ch. 8

NAEYC Accreditation Criteria for Health Standards, 5.C.05

Agawam Public Schools 2009 - 2010

Approved by School Committee on October 27, 2009, by a vote of 6 – 0 – 1 absent.

File: IMG

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Animals can be effective teaching aids, and the benefits of the human-animal bond are well established. However, animals in the classroom necessitate certain safeguards. Because diseases can be transmitted from animals to people, consideration should be given to potential health issues before bringing animals into the classroom.

The following criteria shall be met prior to bringing an animal into the classroom:

Clear parent/guardian notification guidelines and safety protocols will be in place before allowing animals in the classroom.

Classroom pets or visiting animals must be in good health.

Pets or visiting animals shall have documentation from a veterinarian or an animal shelter to show that the animals are fully immunized (if the animal should be so protected), and the animal is suitable for contact with children.

Teaching staff will supervise all interactions between children and animals and instruct children about safe behavior when in close proximity to animals.
School nurse will be notified, prior to pet or visiting animals entering the school, to make sure that any child who is allergic to a type of animal is not exposed to that animal.

No wild animal, no matter how tame, will be brought into a classroom except under the direct supervision of a qualified animal care professional. No reptiles will be allowed as classroom pets because of the risk of salmonella infection.

Parents, students, and teachers must make a written request to the building principal one (1) week prior to the animal visit. The principal will give final approval for all animal visits.

REF: Mass. Dept. of Public Health 2007, Comprehensive School Health Manual, Ch. 8
NAEYC Accreditation Criteria for Health Standards, 5.C.05

Agawam Public Schools 2009 - 2010

Approved by School Committee on October 27, 2009, by a vote of 6 – 0 – 1 absent.