

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Board of Education recognizes that the appropriate use of live animals as instructional resources can enrich the educational program. The observation and nurture of live animals can help children learn specific biological and behavioral principles and gain respect for all living things.

A staff member who uses live animals shall observe proper precautions for the safety of students and the animals. At all times, the safety of children and staff, and the well-being of the animal must be ensured. Animals must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and handled properly. The Principal must approve the use of any animal in a course of instruction or the establishment of an animal habitat in a classroom.

Any animal used in school must have been lawfully acquired in accordance with applicable state law and local ordinance. An animal susceptible to rabies must have been vaccinated against rabies.

A teacher or other qualified adult must assume primary responsibility for the animal, its nourishment, and its sanitary living conditions. The staff member in charge must make proper arrangements for the animal's care and feeding over weekends, holidays, and school vacation periods.

Experiments with animals shall not be permitted.

Persons wishing to bring animals into the school must receive prior permission from the teacher and the administration. The administration shall be informed when any live animal is to be brought into a classroom. No live animal is to be transported on a school bus.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties

<u>Cross References:</u>	*4112.4	Employee health
	*4147	Employee safety
	*4212.4	Employee health
	*4247	Employee safety
	*5141	Health
	*5142	Student safety
	*6141	Curriculum design/development

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Live Animals

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