

ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOLS

Animals may be brought into the school for educational purposes. However, they must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and under the control of the owner at all times, which includes the required use of a leash on all dogs and cats when they are outside of their cage/crate. Prior permission from the supervising teacher needs to be given to anyone who would like to bring an animal into the school. In addition, before an animal is brought into a specific classroom, a notice will go home to the parents of those classroom students asking if there are any known allergies or fears that the child might have regarding a particular animal.

Dissection

The Board of Education recognizes that the study of living things is essential to effective instruction in the life sciences. The primary goals for demonstrations and investigations involving animals are to achieve an interest in and an understanding of the life processes, to demonstrate biological principles, and to teach proper care and handling of animals. Therefore, the Board requires that any such instructional activities, investigations, and projects be well-planned and adequately supervised, and be conducted with a respect for life and an appreciation of the health and safety of both animals and students.

The Board of Education recognizes that some students may have a moral or religious objection to dissection of animals. In accordance with state law, students shall have the right to opt out of dissection activities, provided that the student performs an alternative project approved by the student's teacher. The objection must be submitted, in writing, by the parent or guardian of the student.

At the start of the school year, teachers of courses that include animal dissection shall give notice to the students in those classes of their opt-out rights and responsibilities under the law and this policy. Such notice shall be shared with parents of those students, and also be available upon request from the teacher. Sample notice: "You are enrolled in (insert title of class), which includes animal dissection. You have the right to opt-out of the animal dissection on moral or religious grounds. In order to do so, your parent/guardian must substantiate your objection in writing to the Building Principal and me (name of teacher), and you must complete an alternate project approved by me".

Ref: Education Law §809(4)

Responsible Use of Live Animals and Dissection in the Science Classroom, National Science Teachers Association Position Statement, revised March 2008
www.nsta.org/about/positions/animals.aspx

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Revised and Approved:

