
Horizon School Division No. 67

Policy Handbook

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Policy Title: Animals in Schools
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POLICY

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION BELIEVES THAT THE USE OF LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS IS A HIGHLY MOTIVATIONAL AVENUE FOR A VARIETY OF SIGNIFICANT LEARNING EXPERIENCES, AN EFFECTIVE SOURCE OF LEARNING AND CURRICULAR ENHANCEMENT AND MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF.

REGULATIONS

1. With the approval of the principal, teachers may bring visiting animals into the schools for supplemental learning experiences for up to one school day at a time as long as the curriculum connections are described.
2. With the approval of the principal and the Superintendent or designate, teachers may bring animals into the school for therapeutic purposes.
3. With the approval of the principal, teachers may bring animals into the schools for longer stays for instructional purposes only. Curriculum connections for the use of animals in schools may include:
 - a. The use of live animals as subjects for observations and data gathering
 - b. Direct observation of adaptive characteristics
 - c. Development of a sense of responsibility, kindness, and concern for other living beings
 - d. Development of a healthy respect for the animals in our local environment
4. Prior to introducing an animal into a classroom, the teacher must ensure that the following conditions have been met:
 - a. students and school personnel are not afraid of or allergic to that type of animal;
 - b. the animal is healthy;
 - c. the animal does not present aggressive behaviour towards the students or to school personnel; and
 - d. appropriate standards of hygiene and sanitation will be met.
5. The teacher bringing the animal into the school must know the past history of the animal.
6. Only relatively small animals, which are easily confined or caged, maintained and handled, may be kept in the classroom. Large animals such as dogs and cats may not be kept in the school.

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7. The following are not permitted in schools either as visitors or as classroom animals:
 - a. poisonous insects, arachnids, or reptiles,
 - b. dangerous animals or reptiles, or
 - c. rats.

8. The teacher must ensure that any animal that is kept in the classroom receives adequate care and is not abused or neglected in any way.
 - a. The teacher is responsible for:
 - i. determining the care and feeding requirements for animals kept in the classroom, and
 - b. The teacher is responsible for providing a suitable cage for the animal, feeding, cleaning and other duties connected to the accommodation of the animal.
 - i. The teacher must ensure that any student who assists the teacher with the care of the animals in the classroom
 1. is properly trained by the teacher and
 2. is under on-site supervision by the teacher with the teacher present but not necessarily constantly viewing the activity.
 - c. The teacher must ensure that there is a plan in place to provide care to animals:
 - i. during weekends and holidays, and
 - ii. to provide a permanent home for the animal when classroom study is completed.

9. If, in the opinion of the principal or the facilities manager, animal hygiene becomes a factor, approval to keep the animal in the school is withdrawn and the animal must be taken from the school at the end of the school day.

10. The teacher must be prepared to deal with the death of or injury to the animals kept in the classroom or animals brought to the class as visitors.
 - a. In the event of the death of an animal kept in the classroom, the animal must be disposed of safely and in a manner that is sensitive to student emotions.

11. Animals are not permitted to roam freely in the school building or on the school grounds.

12. If animals are brought to a school to meet students, they must
 - a. be on a leash and under control, and
 - b. in the case of animals that cannot be leashed under the control of a responsible adult who can control the animal.

13. The Horizon School Division does not permit dogs to be on school grounds.

14. Service animals are permitted with approval of the principal