

REGULATION**REGULATION****ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS**

Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes and as service animals. Service animals are permitted in any areas where their service owner is normally permitted. However, they Animals in schools must be appropriately and humanely cared for, and properly handled; however, a public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.

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:

- For service animals, when it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the dog or miniature horse a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog or miniature horse been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the animal, or ask that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.
- A public entity may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if the animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or the animal is not housebroken.
- Prior to granting permission for an animal in a classroom, ~~teachers should check with the school nurse regarding any~~ known allergies among students in the classroom ~~should be checked.~~ If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction. Separation, in the case of allergies to service animals, is the appropriate remedy.
- Animals, except for service animals, shall not be transported on school buses.
- Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animals, except service animals, in the classroom. The care and supervision of a service animal is the responsibility of the service animal's handler.
- Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle ~~the~~ non-service animals.
- If non-service animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and safety.

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.