

SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Baltic, Connecticut

POLICY REGARDING LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

No student shall bring any live animal, whether pet or wild, to any classroom without prior consent of the teacher and the Principal.

Teachers may bring and maintain goldfish or tropical fish in suitable bowls or tanks, but turtles, birds, snakes, or other animals that might present a health hazard shall not be allowed without the approval of the Principal, and then only for class observation and study for a limited period of time, unless an exception is made. Science teachers may have animals such as rats, mice and frogs in appropriate facilities in or adjacent to laboratories for the purpose of class study and experimentation, provided that the utmost care is taken to prevent accident and/or suffering to the animals.

Individuals bringing animals into the school should receive prior permission and shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Teachers are to check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies existing among students in the classroom, prior to granting mission. If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction.
2. Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane proper treatment of any animal in the classroom.
3. Teachers must be aware of state law regulating sale, distribution and handling of animals.
4. Only the teacher or students, designated by the teacher, are to handle the animals.
5. If 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.
6. Teachers with questions regarding proper care, feeding and handling of animals, should contact the science resource teacher or science department head.
7. Animals are not to be transported on school buses.
8. All demonstrations and experiments using live animals, must have prior approval of the building administrator or delegated agent and be conducted in accord with the Connecticut guidelines on experimental use of animals.

9. If a staff member or student has been bitten by the animal where skin has been pierced, the incident must be reported immediately to the school office by the supervising adult. Building Administrators are to assume responsibility to notify public health authorities and to impound the animal for observation. Public health authorities will determine the appropriate term of confinement of the animal and method of observation.

Guidelines, as established by the American Humane Association, "Care and Management of Animal Visitors at School," will be made available in every school office and media center and these guidelines are to be adhered to by classroom teachers wishing to have animals in the classroom.

ADOPTED: May 2006