

# INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

## Animals in Classrooms

### Policy/Procedure O-61

**Policy:** Live animals, except for fish in aquariums are only to be in the school for educational purposes. No live animal will be allowed to stay in a classroom longer than deemed appropriate for educational purposes, by the principal or during an extended school break of more than two (2) days. At no time, will animals considered dangerous be brought into the classrooms.

Guide dogs and Service dogs are permitted on school buses and in school facilities to perform the functions for which they are trained. A dog's laminated identification card may be requested for verification.

Parents will be notified, by the teacher, prior to an animal being brought into the classroom. If after an animal is brought into the classroom, the parent finds their student is allergic to the animal, the school will work with the parent and teacher to resolve the issue.

Examples of educational purposes where animals would be in the classroom are:

- 1) Animals used in health class to demonstrate effects of different diets.
- 2) Animals used in biology to show development changes or diversity.
- 3) Eggs incubated to show development.
- 4) Pets/animals brought into the classroom to allow students exposure to a variety of species.
- 5) Pets/animals used to demonstrate obedience training.

The principal has the authority to determine if it is appropriate to bring an animal into the classroom and the length of time the animal can stay.

Cleaning: Cages shall be cleaned by the teacher in charge of the animal and on a routine basis to avoid offensive odors or pest issues. Aquariums with fish are to be maintained by the teacher in charge of the aquarium including cleaning as needed.

When appropriate, teachers may allow students to handle, feed, and care for the animals. Prior to bringing an animal into the classroom, the teacher must define the educational purposes and receive approval from the principal.

- When an animal is to be brought into a classroom, the teacher will send home a note with the students of that class notifying the parents that an animal will be present. If known in advance, this will be done at the beginning of the school year.
- Parents are to notify the teacher or principal if their student is allergic to the animal. Upon such notice, the principal will confer with the teacher and determine what options are available which may include changing to a different species with no allergy problems or not having an animal in the classroom. The school will not reveal the name of the student with allergies to students or parents.
- The teacher will be responsible for arranging appropriate animal care during all breaks. Pets may go home with students during extended breaks with written permission of parents or guardians.
- If necessary, housekeeping will clean all surfaces in the classroom to remove any animal dander that may still cause an allergic reaction by the student.

**Adopted by ISBVI Board: 5/15/17**