

Administrative Regulation 6163.23(a)

Instruction

LIVE ANIMALS AT SCHOOL FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES

Instructional staff (not students) may request from the school site administrator to approve the use of live animals prior to the display of the animals in the classroom. This policy is intended for a “class pet” and other appropriate limited use of animals for instructional purposes.

Instructional Staff Responsibility

1. Instructional staff must request in writing from the site administrator for the use of animals in the classroom prior to staff bringing any live animals to the school/facility/classroom for instructional purposes. Prior to a site administrator providing approval for the animals in the classroom, parents of the students in the affected classroom shall be informed in writing as to the specific “type” of animal that will be in the classroom and parents shall be directed to contact the site administrator if their child has any medical issues or allergies associated with the specific type of proposed animal. The site administrator will then determine the appropriate manner to address the issue.
2. Animals whose bites are poisonous or may cause severe physiological reactions are not permitted at school.
3. Animals should be kept in an appropriate cage or enclosure that provides maximum containment of the animals, clean and sanitary conditions, shelter and protection from weather, appropriate temperatures, and assures safety for the students. Instructional staff shall not leave the animals at the school facility/classroom over a weekend, holiday, or school break unless the safety and comfort of the animals can be ensured.
4. Staff must instruct students and visitors about inserting fingers in an occupied cage. Any incident in which a student or visitor is bit by animal must be reported to the site administrator immediately.
5. Instructional staff should train students in the care of and appropriate handling of animals, such as mice or guinea pigs, to include instruction not to excite animals or engage in activities such as poking pencils at animals because such activity encourages biting. Every reasonable precaution shall be taken to ensure animals are not teased, abused mistreated, annoyed, tormented, or in any manner made to suffer by any person or by any means.
6. Instructional staff shall instruct students to thoroughly wash their hands after they finish touching or handling an animal in the classroom to ensure proper hygiene. Students should not eat or drink anything while touching or handling animals.
7. Instructional staff shall provide proof of liability coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 annual aggregate and shall name the District, its officers, employees, and volunteers as additional insured. Instructional staff shall provide the District with a Certificate of Liability Insurance along with the applicable Additional Insured Endorsement stating the same.

Administrative Regulation 6163.23(b)

AR 6163.20 – Service Animals at School

AR 6163.21 - Service Animals in Training at School

AR 6163.22 – Non-Service Animals at School

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

233.5 Instruction in kindness to pets and humane treatment of living creatures

39839 Transportation of guide dogs, signal dogs, service dogs

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

51540 Safe and humane treatment of animals at school

CIVIL CODE

54.1 Access to public places

54.2 Guide, signal, or service dogs, right to accompany

GOVERNMENT CODE

810-996.6 California Tort Claims Act, especially:

815 Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity

835 Conditions of liability

VEHICLE CODE

21113 Public grounds

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

1216 Transportation of property

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.104 Definitions

35.136 Service animals

COURT DECISIONS

Sullivan v. Vallejo City USD, (1990) 731 F.Supp. 947

Management Resources:

FEDERAL REGISTER

Rules and Regulations, September 15, 2010, Vol. 75, Number 178, pages 56164-56236

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Indoor Air Quality: Governing Board Actions for Creating Healthy School Environments, Policy Brief, July 2008

Asthma Management in the Schools, Policy Brief, March 2008

WEB SITES:

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: <http://www.asPCA.org>

Humane Society of the United States: <http://www.hsus.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Adopted: 12/11/13

Revised:

Reviewed:

WEST SONOMA COUNTY UHSD

Sebastopol, CA