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Preamble The use of live animals in schools is recognized as 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.

Purpose and application

1(1) The purpose of this regulation is

- (a) to permit teachers to bring live animals into schools for short visits and longer stays for instructional purposes only; and
- (b) to outline the requirements for animals in schools.

(2) This regulation is in effect at all times during the year and in all areas of a school.

Animals in schools

2(1) With the approval of the principal, teachers may bring animals into schools for instructional purposes only as

- (a) visiting animals; and
- (b) for extended periods of classroom study for curriculum-related projects and activities.

- (2) With the approval of the principal and the Director of Student Services, teachers may bring animals into schools for therapeutic purposes.
- (3) Teachers must have a definite teaching purpose for bringing live animals into the classroom.
- (4) Curriculum connections for the use of animals in schools may include:
 - (a) the use of live animals as subjects for observation and data gathering on body characteristics, habits, movement, feeding behaviour, instinctive reactions;
 - (b) direct observation of adaptive characteristics;
 - (c) subjects to use in language development, talking and writing stories about animals;
 - (d) development of a sense of responsibility, kindness and concern for other living beings; and
 - (e) development of a healthy respect for the animals in our local environment.

Conditions for animals in schools

- 3(1)** 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.
- (2) Only animals in good health, free of disease with no tendency to bite or scratch may be brought into schools.
- (3) The teacher bringing the animal into the school must know the past history of the animal.

Source and type of animals permitted in

- 4(1)** Only relatively small animals, which are easily confined or caged, maintained and handled, may be kept in the classroom, such as tropical fish and small mammals such as gerbils, hamsters, mice, rabbits and

schools

guinea pigs.

- (2) Larger animals such as dogs and cats may not be kept in the school.
- (3) The following are not permitted in schools either as visitors or as classroom animals:
 - (a) poisonous insects such as bees or wasps,
 - (b) poisonous arachnids such as black widow spiders,
 - (c) poisonous reptiles such as gila monsters,
 - (d) dangerous animals or reptiles, or
 - (e) rats.

Animal visitors 5

Teaching staff may bring animals into the school for a brief visit up to one school day at a time as a supplementary learning experience as long as the curriculum connections are described.

Animal care 6(1)

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.

- (2) The teacher is responsible for:
 - (a) determining the care and feeding requirements for animals kept in the classroom, and
 - (b) ensuring that animal care procedures are posted and reviewed with the students.
- (3) The teacher is responsible for providing a suitable cage for the animal, feeding, cleaning and other duties connected to the accommodation of the animal.
- (4) The teacher must ensure that any student who assists the teacher with the care of the animals in the classroom
 - (a) is properly trained by the teacher and
 - (b) is under on-site supervision by the teacher with the teacher present but not necessarily constantly viewing the activity.
- (5) The teacher must ensure that there is a plan in place to provide care to

animals:

- (a) during weekends and holidays, and
- (b) to provide a permanent home for the animal when classroom study is completed.

- (6) If, in the opinion of the principal and the facility operator, 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.

Animal injury and death

- 7(1)** 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.
- (2) 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.

Unescorted animals

- 8(1)** Animals are not permitted to roam freely in the school building or on the school grounds.
- (2) Whenever an unescorted animal or dog is found on the school premises, students and staff must report the matter to the principal.

Animals at school

- 9** 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.

Dogs on school grounds- City of Calgary bylaw

- 10** The Calgary Board of Education does not permit dogs to be on school grounds because it is prohibited by a city bylaw. Section 15 of the City of Calgary Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw 23M2006 says that the owner of a dog must ensure that a dog does not enter into or remain in or on a school ground. The bylaw defines school ground to include that area of up to 4 hectares of land adjacent to a school that is owned or occupied by the Calgary Board of Education or the Calgary Catholic Board and includes property owned or occupied with another party or the City of Calgary.

References

- Legal References:** • School Act R.S.A. 2000, c. S-3, section 45(8)
- City of Calgary Bylaw:** • 23M2006: Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw
- Calgary Board of Education Reference:** • “Keeping Animals in the Classroom”
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