

**School District #62 (Sooke)**

<b>ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY &amp; IN CLASSROOMS</b>	No. D-121
	Effective: April 28/09 Revised: Sept. 27/22; Jan. 28/25 Reviewed: June 7/22; June 28/22; Sept. 27/22; Dec. 3/24; Dec. 17/24; Jan. 28/25

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

The Principal must give prior approval before ANY animal is allowed on School District property or in school buildings during school hours, after taking into account any allergies or specific concerns anyone in the school may have. The Principal will only be able to give approval for the exceptions listed in the policy. Any requests that fall outside of this policy shall be referred to the Associate Superintendents.

The animals shall:

- Not be allowed to roam freely within the school setting and, in the case of small classroom pets, should be confined to a habitat within the classroom.
- In the case of small classroom pets, be cared for during weekends and holiday periods.

Principals shall:

- Be consulted and provide a decision prior to the inclusion of a live animal, reptile, fish or bird in the school or in a classroom.

Teachers shall ensure that the following conditions have been met prior to introducing an animal into the classroom:

- Procedures on the safe handling and care of the animal are posted and reviewed with students which states that the animal is only handled by students when the following conditions are met:
  - it does not endanger or stress the animal and the handling of the animal is related to the curriculum being taught.
  - the handling of the animal is in accordance to species specific handling instructions and a student is directly supervised by the experienced caregiver or teacher.
- Procedures for the feeding of the animal and maintenance of any enclosure for hygienic purposes are established.
- Inform parents or guardians of the intent to keep a small classroom pet.
- Take responsibility for the care and welfare of any small classroom pet during weekends, holidays, and school breaks.
- Ensure that an animal is removed from the classroom if the animal may place the safety of children/or staff in jeopardy or is a health hazard for children/or staff, or is an impediment to learning.
- Be responsible for the removal of all refuse or waste pertaining to classroom animals and ensuring it is placed in the appropriate receptacle safely.
- In the event of the death of an animal it is disposed of in a manner that is safe and sensitive to student emotions.

For clarity, this administrative regulation does not apply to Guide or Service Dogs as defined in the BC *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*. For students, Guide/Service Dog requirements will be addressed within the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). For staff, Guide/Service Dog requirements will be addressed within the workplace accommodation process.