

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

AR 3122

Animals can be an effective teaching aid. To protect both the students and animals, teachers shall ensure that the following rules and precautions related to health, safety and sanitation are observed.

1. Students bring animals to school must first obtain the consent of the teacher and the parent/guardian.
2. Animals may not be brought to school on school buses without written permission of the principal and agreement of the transportation supervisor. Such permission is not required for seeing-eye dogs or service dogs needed by students.
3. All animals brought to school must be:
 - a. In good physical condition.
 - b. Vaccinated against transmittable diseases.
 - c. In clean, safe and suitable cages, or containers, or otherwise appropriately controlled.
4. Students shall not bring poisonous or wild animals to school. If wildlife specimens are used in a science class, protective gloves and a face shield shall be worn by anyone handling these specimens and the animals' saliva and tissue shall be treated as infectious.
5. Animals brought to school by students shall generally be taken home the same day they are brought to school.
6. With the consent of the principal, animals may remain at school under the following conditions:
 - a. The animal is kept in the classroom only for the number of days needed to achieve the educational goal.
 - b. The teacher provides a plan for the proper care, sanitation, feeding and handling of the animal.
 - c. The teacher takes responsibility for the animal's care in the event of a school closure and over weekends.
 - d. The teacher is familiar with any potential dangers caused by the animal and gives special consideration to any students who have allergies to certain animals.