

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

The Board of Trustees recognizes that animals can be an effective teaching aid and can help support the district's instructional program. In addition, instruction related to the care and treatment of animals teaches students a sense of responsibility and promotes the humane treatment of living creatures.

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6142.5 - Environmental Education)

A teacher may bring an animal to school or arrange for students in his/her class to bring an animal to school for instructional purposes upon written permission from the principal or designee and subject to administrative regulation and other reasonable health, safety, and sanitation precautions. Teachers shall be responsible for ensuring that animals are strictly controlled and for ensuring that all such precautions are observed so as to protect both the students and the animal.

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)
(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)
(cf. 5142 - Safety)
(cf. 5145.8 - Refusal to Harm or Destroy Animals)
(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)
(cf. 6145.8 - Assemblies and Special Events)

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs on school premises or on school transportation. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.2)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

When any animal is brought into the classroom, the principal or designee shall provide written notification to all parents/guardians of students in the affected class asking them to verify whether their child has any known allergies, asthma, or other health condition that may be affected by the animal's presence.

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)
(cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions)
(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)

The district assumes no liability for the safety of animals voluntarily brought to school.

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL (continued)

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*

COURT DECISIONS

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

Management Resources:

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>