



*"Inspire learners, Integrate sustainability,
Involve community"*

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64

PROCEDURE 3800 Animals in the Classroom

Section: Health and Safety
Dates of Revisions: April 11, 2007
Date of Adoption and
Resolution Number: June 13, 2018- 76/18

1. The school principal must grant permission prior to the introduction of any live animal into a classroom, or other learning space
2. Generally speaking, when animals are introduced into classrooms, this will be to support the goals and objectives of educational programming, unless otherwise permitted by the principal.
3. If approved, the school must take reasonable steps to ensure, before an animal is brought in, that:
 - a. students and school personnel are not affected by allergies due to its presence;
 - b. potential health risks posed by animal disease or parasite has been considered and mitigated, possibly by way of a veterinary examination;
 - c. the inclusion of the animal will not present an unreasonable level of physical danger.
 - d. students and relevant staff will be suitably knowledgeable in the proper care and handling of the animal, including hygiene of the animal and the affected staff and students.
4. The care of the animal, including any costs incurred, will normally be the responsibility of the staff member who introduces it.
5. Provisions for care on non-instructional days and inter-sessional periods must be made, and must include a plan to address care during unexpected emergency school closures.
6. The suitability of a classroom as an appropriate living space for an animal must be considered against the BC SPCA's Position Statement on Animals in the classroom, and determined with respect to factors including:
 - a. the physical needs of an animal, including but not limited to room temperature, light requirements, sleeping/waking patterns, size of living space, response to confinement, and noise level;

- b. the life expectancy of an animal. There must be a care plan in place that takes into account the animal's needs through its normal life expectancy. This plan may include an eventual transition step in which the school is no longer the custodian of the animal;
 - c. the habitat of the animal, including the creation and maintenance of an appropriate habitat
 - d. emergency power, including the availability of at least one alternative power source where electricity is required to maintain a suitable habitat.
7. Before any native or non-native wildlife can be removed from its natural habitat and confined for purposes of inclusion in an educational program, the BC Wildlife Act must be consulted and any applications concerning temporary possession of wildlife completed.

References:

- Policy 380
- The BC SPCA position on animals in education. <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/kids-teens/teacher/classroom-animals/> and <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/assets/documents/welfare/position-statements/classroom-pets.pdf>
- The BC Wildlife Act