

Mt. Diablo USD

Board Policy

Animals At School

BP 6163.2

Instruction

The Governing Board recognizes that animals can be an effective teaching aid. 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.

Animals may be brought to school for educational purposes, subject to rules and precautions specified in administrative regulations related to health, safety and sanitation. Teachers shall ensure that these rules and precautions are observed so as to protect both the students and animals.

Seeing-eye dogs and service dogs may accompany students and staff at school as needed.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

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

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

(cf. 5141.1 - Accidents)

(cf. 5141.23 - Infectious Disease Prevention)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

233.5 Instruction in kindness to pets and humane treatment of living creatures

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

51540 Safe and humane treatment of animals at school

GOVERNMENT CODE

810-996.6 California Tort Claims Act, especially:

815 Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity

835 Conditions of liability

Management Resources:

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Catalogue of Publications, 1996

Guidelines for the Study of Animals in Elementary and Secondary School Biology, HE 1079

Policy MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: November 9, 2004 Concord, California

Mt. Diablo USD

Administrative Regulation

Animals At School

AR 6163.2

Instruction

All animals brought to school must be:

1. In good physical condition
2. Vaccinated against transmittable diseases
3. In clean, safe and suitable cages or containers or otherwise appropriately controlled

Students bringing animals to school must first obtain the consent of the teacher and the parent/guardian.

Animals shall not be brought to school on school buses without express permission of the principal or designee. Such permission shall not be required for seeing-eye dogs or service dogs needed by students.

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

Students shall not bring poisonous or wild animals to school. If wildlife specimens are used in a biology class, protective gloves and a face shield shall be worn by anyone handling these specimens and the animals' saliva and neurological tissue shall be treated as infectious.

(cf. 5141.23 - Infectious Disease Prevention)

Animals brought to school by students shall generally be taken home the same day they are brought to school.

With the consent of the principal or designee, animals may remain at school longer under the following conditions:

1. The animal shall remain in the classroom only for the number of days needed to achieve the educational goal.
2. The teacher shall provide a plan for the proper care, sanitation, feeding and handling of the animal.
3. The teacher shall be responsible for the animal's care in the event of any school closure and may allow students to take class pets home over weekends.
4. The teacher shall be familiar with any potential dangers caused by the animal and shall give special consideration to any students who have allergies to certain animals.

Regulation MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
approved: November 9, 2004 Concord, California