

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

The Kittery School district recognizes the benefit of animals in schools for educational purposes. In an effort to provide a safe environment for all students, the following needs to be observed:

- A. Permission must be obtained from the principal before animals are brought to school, or onto the school grounds, by anyone. If students or teachers wish to bring domesticated animals (pets) to school for educational purposes, they must request permission from the principal. In the case of students, they must first consult with their teachers, who in turn will request permission from the principals. Animals may not be transported in school vehicles.
- B. No animals will be allowed on school premises unless proof of current rabies vaccination and proof of insurance coverage (if appropriate as determined by the principal) is provided to the building principal. Factors that the principals will consider include, but are not limited to:
 - Cleanliness
 - Educational purpose
 - Disruptive factors
 - Children/staff with allergies
 - Length of stay
 - Parent awareness
- C. No wild animals will be brought on school premises unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animal and properly licensed by the state or federal agencies as appropriate (i.e., zookeeper, veterinarians, and biologists). Students should not be permitted to handle wild animals.
- D. All animals brought to school must be restrained by the owner/handler, housed in appropriate containers, and cared for in a humane manner. The teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students whenever there is an exhibit or activity involving animals on school premises.
- E. Animals are not to be kept in classrooms as pets. Fish in tanks may be excluded if an appropriate plan for their care when school is not in session has been approved by the building principal.
- F. If a student is bitten/injured by an animal on school premises, the principal/designee, school nurse/physician, and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible. If a staff member or visitor is bitten/injured, the principal/designee must be notified. The principal/designee must notify appropriate public health authorities and the Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, of each incident, as soon as possible.

If a stray or wild animal appears on school grounds, children shall not be allowed in the area until the animal has left the premises or is removed by the local animal control officer, game warden, or other appropriate official.

No animal may be used as part of a scientific experiment or for any other purposes where the normal health of the animal is interfered with or where pain or distress is caused. No person may practice vivisection or exhibit a vivisected animal in the school. Dissection of dead animals shall be confined to the classroom and to the presence of students engaged in the study of dissection and shall not be for the purpose of exhibition.

Legal Reference: 7 MRSA 3971
22 MRSA 801-825

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