

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Apple Creek School Board recognizes that under the proper conditions animals can be an effective teaching aid. The following guidelines are adopted for use in Apple Creek School District.

1. The only animals allowed to be housed in a classroom must be for a specific and appropriate educational purpose and shall be allowed for the amount of time necessary to achieve the educational goal.
2. All animals must be in good physical condition and vaccinated against transmittable diseases.
3. Special consideration should be given to the effect of furred and feathered animals on allergic children, before bringing the animals into the classroom.
4. The teacher will be responsible for the proper control of animals brought to school for instructional purposes, including the effective protection of children when animals are in the school. This will include keeping the animal in an appropriate cage or container that prevents direct contact with fecal material.
5. No animals are to be allowed to run freely in the classrooms, food areas, or activity areas.
6. All fecal material must be cleaned from the cage of any mammal or rodent on a daily basis and an appropriate sanitizer used. Reptiles, fish, and insects must be cared for in a manner to minimize odor and maintain health.
7. No poisonous animals shall be brought into the school.

It will be the responsibility of the teacher to provide for a plan of care for classroom-housed animals in the event of an emergency school closing which might cause disruption of the routine care of the animals.

No animal shall be housed at school unless the teacher involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding, and handling of that animal and of any potential dangers caused by that animal. Many different diseases and afflictions may be transmitted by animal hair, dander, bites, and fecal material. It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to become familiar with each animal as it relates to the well-being of the individual students in that particular classroom.

The principal shall be advised of any animals to be housed in the classroom. At the principal's discretion, permission to keep the animal may be denied based on these considerations: (1) the purpose for the animal's presence, (2) the ability of the teacher to control the animal, and (3) the past practice in the classroom. In each school where these animals are housed, there should be a plan whereby the staff member who visits the school daily during the emergency closing will be aware of the animals' presence and see to their care. If no staff member visits the school daily in such circumstances, the teacher is responsible for the daily care of the animal(s).