

PROTOCOL FOR ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

- (1) School principals will approve/disapprove the educational merit of having a live animal in the classroom/school. They must consider:
 - impact on students, class and learning environment
 - purpose of having the animal
 - well-being of the animal
 - allergies
 - fears and phobias
 - animal waste
 - proven control of the animal – has been vetted for good behaviour around children
 - health of the animal
 - cats/dogs – proof of vaccinations
 - safety precautions when food is being consumed near the animal
 - regular maintenance of the animal enclosure
 - which adults will be in care and control of the animal (leashed or kenneled)
 - only small animals that are confined/caged easily may be kept in the classroom overnight for no longer than 3 nights unless otherwise approved (e.g. fish, small mammals)
 - larger animals only are allowed for day visits
 - if the presence of an animal will cause conflict with other animals already in the school
 - if the animal is poisonous or non-domesticated as they are prohibited
- (2) Approval of the animal can be withdrawn at anytime by the principal.
- (3) When it is decided that an animal will be allowed in the classroom/school on a one-time basis, the following planning item needs to be considered:
 - Handling of the animal should only be done by the owner.
- (4) When it is decided that an animal will be allowed in the classroom/school on a regular basis, the following planning items need to be considered:
 - Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of students affected by an animal in the school need to be notified
 - Students and adults need to be educated in the importance of hand washing after handling animals

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- Ill or injured animals need to be removed from the classroom/school to be given proper care
 - If an animal exhibits any sign of aggression, it should be removed and not allowed to return.
 - Storage of animal food needs to be in rigid containers to avoid pests
- (5) Service and non-service animals please refer to IMG-R2 Protocol for Service and Non-Service Animals in Schools for Students with Additional Needs.
- (6) School principal or designate must authorize any animal that comes into the school.
- (a) Notification to the assistant superintendent of educational programming (or designate) will occur when an animal is in the building on a consistent basis. Notice will include:
- name of the animal's owner and the room number in which it will mainly inhabit
 - type of animal
 - rationale/educational purpose of the animal
- (b) Notification to the assistant superintendent of student services (or designate) will occur for service animals. Notice will include submitting the following documents:
- *Request for a Service Animal in the School*
 - *Management Plan for the Care of the Service Animal*
- (c) River East Transcona School Division also recognizes that animals brought into the school without authorization from the principal or designate, leave the animal owner (employee, student, parent/legal guardian, etc.) at risk as there is no insurance coverage for non-authorized animals.

Effective Date: November 19, 2019 Review Date:
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IMG-R2 Protocol for
Service and Non-
Service Animals in
Schools for Students
with Additional
Needs
Legal/Cross Reference: