

# administrative regulation

Administrative  
Regulation No.  
6004

Classification:  
Students

Effective Date:  
February 1, 2014

## Animals in schools

# Animals in Schools

## 1 | Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Regulation is to:

- provide guidelines and requirements for the inclusion of animals in schools for instructional purposes and short visits.
- provide direction on responsibilities of the care of animals in schools.

## 2 | Scope

This Administrative Regulation applies to all schools, at all times during the year and in all areas of the school.

## 3 | Compliance

All employees are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with this Administrative Regulation.

## 4 | Principles

The following principles apply:

- Providing for the inclusion of animals in schools is recognized as an opportunity for significant, motivational experiences that enhance learning.
- The inclusion must take into consideration the health and safety of students, staff and animals.

## 5 | Definitions.

**CBE:** means The Calgary Board of Education.

**Indigenous wild animals:** means wild local species.

**School Grounds:** means the property surrounding the school building

## 6 | Regulation Statement

- 1) With the approval of the principal, teachers may bring animals into schools for instructional purposes for a one day visit or extended periods of time.
- 2) Instructional purposes for the presence of animals in schools may include:
  - a) as subjects for observation and data gathering on body characteristics, habits, movement, feeding behaviour, instinctive reactions;



- b) talking and writing stories about animals to support language development;
- c) supporting the development and learning of a sense of responsibility, kindness and concern for other living beings; and
- d) supporting the development and learning of a healthy respect for the animals in our local environment.

**Conditions for animals in schools**

- 3) Prior to introducing an animal into a classroom, the teacher must ensure that the following conditions have been met:
  - a. students and school personnel must not be afraid of or allergic to that type of animal;
  - b. animals must be in good health, free of disease with no tendencies to bite or scratch;
  - c. the owner of the cat/dog must show proof of current vaccinations and licensing;
  - d. the teacher bringing the animal into the school must know the past history of the animal;
  - e. the animal must not present aggressive behaviour towards the students or to school personnel; and
  - f. parents must be informed.
- 4) An animal brought into the school for a visit must be leashed and under the control of a responsible adult. Where a leash cannot be used, the animal must be under the control of a responsible adult.
- 5) Animals are not permitted to roam freely in the school building or on the school grounds.

**Withdrawal of approval for animals in school**

- 6) If, in the opinion of the principal, animal hygiene becomes a factor, approval to keep the animal in the school is withdrawn and the animal must be taken from the school at the end of the school day.
- 7) If conditions change (animal, student, or environment) withdrawal of the animal can be made at the discretion of the principal.

**Type of animals permitted in schools**

- 8) Only relatively small animals which are easily confined or caged, maintained and handled may be kept in the classroom, such as tropical fish and small mammals.

**Animals not permitted in schools**

- 9) Larger animals such as dogs and cats may not be kept in the school building beyond regular school hours.
- 10) Accredited service dogs are permitted to accompany a student during regular school hours and activities providing they have met the requirements outlined in CBE regulation governing service dogs.
- 11) The following are not permitted in schools either as visitors or as classroom animals:
  - a) unescorted animals;
  - b) poisonous animals;
  - c) indigenous wild animals; and
  - d) rats.

**Animal care and the ethical treatment of animals**

- 12) The teacher must ensure:
  - a) the ethical and humane treatment of animals is maintained and modeled; and
  - b) any animal that is kept in the classroom receives adequate care and is not abused or neglected in any way.
- 13) The teacher is responsible for:
  - a) determining the care and feeding requirements for animals kept in the classroom;
  - b) ensuring appropriate standards of hygiene and sanitation will be met;
  - c) ensuring that animal care procedures are posted and reviewed with the students; and
  - d) providing or coordinating for a suitable enclosure for the animal, feeding, cleaning and other duties connected to the accommodation of the animal.
- 14) The teacher must ensure that any student who assists the teacher with the care of the animals in the classroom:
  - a. is properly trained by the teacher; and
  - b. is under on-site supervision by the teacher with the teacher present but not necessarily constantly viewing the activity.

- 15) The teacher must ensure that there is a plan in place to provide care to animals:
- a) After school hours, including weekends and holidays; and
  - b) in a permanent home when classroom study is completed.
- Animal injury and death**
- 16) The teacher must be prepared to deal with the death of or injury to the animals kept in the classroom or animals brought to the class as visitors.
- 17) In the event of the death of an animal kept in the classroom, the animal must be disposed of safely and in a manner that is sensitive to student emotions and in accordance with current legislation.
- Dogs on school grounds**
- 18) Dogs are not permitted on school grounds in accordance with the City of Calgary Bylaw with the exception of accredited Service Dogs accompanying an individual on school property.

## 7 | History

Approval	June 11, 2003
Next Review	April 2018
Revision/Review Dates	January 23, 2014 November 1, 2007

## 8 | Related Information

- School Act R.S.A. 2000, c. S-3, section 45(8)
- City of Calgary Bylaw 23M2006: Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw
- Service Dogs Act SA 2007, c.S-7.5
- Wildlife Act of Alberta