

# TRI-TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION

## POLICY

### REGARDING

#### ANIMALS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation Board recognizes that animals can be an effective teaching aid. Therefore, the following policy permits animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects) on school property for educational purposes subject to the following:

1. All requests to have animals in the classroom or on school property must be submitted to the principal in writing. Included in the request should be a description of the activity, type of animal, educational purpose/benefit, length of activity, and a plan for the care of the animal. However, the health and safety of students and staff, including any condition such as allergies which could be exacerbated by exposure to animals shall be a priority consideration when evaluating such requests. The principal has the discretion to permit or deny the presence of animals on school property.
2. For the protection of students or staff with allergies, prior to any exposure to animals in school, the principal shall check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies among students in the classroom. If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction. Appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be accorded to protect their health. At any time, if it is suspected that a student or staff member has had an allergic response to the animal, the animal shall be removed from the classroom or, if necessary, from the building.
3. Animals may not be transported in school vehicles.
4. At no time will animals considered dangerous (i.e. wild, poisonous or aggressive) be brought into the classroom unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animal and properly licensed by state or federal agencies as appropriate (i.e. zookeepers, veterinarians, biologists). Insects that sting or bite shall not be intentionally brought into the classroom. Students will not be permitted to handle dangerous or poisonous animals.
5. All animals brought to school must be in good physical condition and have current vaccinations (if required by law) against transmittable diseases and must be brought in clean, safe and suitable cages or containers or otherwise appropriately controlled.
6. When there is a specific and appropriate educational purpose, the Principal may authorize the housing of animals or insects in the classroom. Animals kept in classrooms must be housed in appropriate containers and cared for in a safe, sanitary, odor-free and human manner. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle these animals. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, arrangements must be made for their adequate care at all times.
7. Animals kept in the classroom will be located away from ventilation systems to avoid circulating allergens throughout the room or building.

8. No animal may be used as part of a scientific experiment or for any other purpose in which the normal health of the animal is interfered with or where pain or distress is caused. Dissection of dead animals shall be confined to the classroom and to the presences of students engaged in the study of dissection and shall not be for the purpose of exhibition. 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 animal's saliva and neurological tissue shall be treated as infectious.
9. Teachers must emphasize the importance of proper hand washing immediately after handling any animal. The use of vinyl gloves will provide an additional barrier to the transmission of disease, particularly when cleaning the cage or housing.
10. All requests to take field trips involving animals must be submitted to the principal in writing. In determining whether to grant the request, the principal shall be guided by the district policy on field trips and shall also take into consideration any known allergies among the students and the possible side effects of the planned exposure to animals.
11. Service dogs may accompany students, staff or visitors on school buses or in classrooms to perform the functions for which they are trained. A dog's laminated identification card may be requested for verification.
12. When any wild or stray animal is found on school property the proper authorities will be contacted to have the animal removed. Students shall not be allowed in the area until the animal has left or been removed.
13. The principal and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible of any incident involving an animal that occurs which could have an adverse effect on the student's physical or emotional health (such as an animal bite, scratch or sting). The supervising teacher must complete a written report describing the incident.

Adopted by the Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation School Board this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

Reviewed and Approved: 8/14/17