

PERMISSION TO HANDLE CLASSROOM ANIMALS

Animals are used in the Agriculture classes at Warren County Middle School as an effective teaching aid for the students. In addition, instruction related to the care and treatment of animals teaches students a sense of responsibility and promotes humane treatment of living creatures.

The agriculture classroom maintains rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, dogs, cats and various aquatic animals. On occasion, the students will have access to livestock animals like chickens, goats, cows, horses, donkeys, pigs, etc. ***While every effort is made to teach the students how to properly hold and care for the animals, there are occasions where the animals may bite, scratch or kick.*** Students should follow the following safety precautions to avoid injury and to ensure a good environment for the class:

1. Never horseplay around the animals.
 - a. This causes them to be frightened, resulting in undue stress and creates animals that bite.
2. Never use the animals as a means of scaring another person.
3. Do not feed the animals without Ms. Phillips's permission.
4. Animals may only be handled with **Ms. Phillips's** permission - they **MAY NOT** come out on days when there is a substitute in the classroom.
5. Make sure to handle each animal gently and carefully in the appropriate way for the individual animal.
6. Always make sure that cages and pens are closed properly to prevent escape.
7. Do NOT put your fingers in or near the mouths of any animal.
8. Do NOT tease the animals with food or objects.
9. Do not handle animals near the computers or modules.
10. Keep fingers, pencils, erasers, paperclips, etc. out of the animal's face and enclosures.
11. Remember, if you are handling an animal and it makes a mess,
you are responsible for cleaning up.
 - a. Do not leave animal feces around the room or outside the enclosures.
12. Respect the animals and treat them compassionately to ensure your safety as well as that of the animals.

Please sign and return the bottom of this form as soon as possible in order to handle the animals in the small animal care class.

Printed Student Name: _____

Class Period: _____

I have read and understand the rules for handling the animals and I agree to follow these rules whenever I come in contact with the agriculture classroom animals. I understand that failure to follow these rules will result in the loss of all animal privileges. Furthermore, I understand that extreme disregard of these rules may result in additional consequences which may include after school detention or permanent removal from the classroom.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Student Signature

I have read the form on handling animals in the agriculture classroom and I understand that the animals are a privilege in the classroom and that if improperly handled, the privilege will be revoked. I further understand that animals are unpredictable and that even when handled properly, they may bite, scratch or kick. Knowing this, I give permission for my child to handle the animals in the agriculture classroom.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Phone Number _____ Email _____