
Under the proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. Additionally, there are situations when federal and state statutes require accommodation of guide dogs or assistance animals.

Bend-La Pine Schools also recognizes that there are medical and physical dangers associated with animals, both wild and domesticated, in the classroom and/or on school property.

The following guidelines apply to all animals in the classroom or on school property.

I. Definitions for the purpose of this policy

(1) "Animal(s)" means live vertebrates such as mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and amphibians. Examples: dogs, rats, snakes, lizards, or cats

(2) "Wild animal" means an animal not commonly domesticated and includes birds, reptiles and amphibians. Examples: raccoon, robin

(3) "Poisonous animal" means an animal which delivers its poison through bite or scratch in amounts sufficient to cause humans sickness, extreme pain or death. Examples: rattlesnake, brown recluse spider

(4) "Service animal" means a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform task for an individual with a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with post traumatic stress disorder during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA or District policy. Miniature horses may be considered service animals provided that (1) the miniature horse is housebroken, (2) the miniature horse is under the owners' control, (3) the particular District facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size and weight, and (4) the miniature horse's presence will not compromise the legitimate safety requirements necessary for the safe operation of the facility.

(5) "Individual with a disability" means a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.

II. Access by Persons Requiring a Service Animal

(1) Service animals may accompany individuals with a disability onto District property in all areas of a District facility where other members of the public are allowed.

(2) Students or staff members with a disability requiring the assistance of a service animal must contact the school Principal regarding appropriate accommodation. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents the use of these devices. Service animals may be excluded if the animal is not within the handler's control, the animal is not housebroken, or if the presence of the animal would create a

fundamental alteration in the nature of the program. Service animals must be vaccinated, be spayed or neutered, and be treated for fleas and ticks prior to accompanying students or staff onto District property. The District shall not be responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.

III. Animal Visitors in the Classroom

(1) All requests to have animal visitors, other than service animals, in the classroom or on school property must be submitted to the Principal or designee in writing.

(2) Included in the request should be a description of the activity, type of animal, educational purpose/benefit, length of activity, a plan for student safety, as well as a plan for the care of the animals. Additionally, if applicable, the request should include verification that the animal is properly and currently licensed with the appropriate inoculations. The Principal or designee has the discretion to permit or deny the presence of any animal in the school, and may consider the following factors: the nature of the request for the animal, the educational benefits of having the animal present at school, the potential for disruption to the educational process, and the potential health and safety risks to others.

(3) Prior to approving the request, the Principal or designee shall determine whether **any** child has a health condition (such as allergies) that could be exacerbated by exposure to animals. Parents of the potentially affected student must be notified of the plans to have an animal in the classroom so that accommodations may be made for their student.

IV. Length of Time Animal Visitors Are Allowed in Classrooms

Animals will be permitted in classrooms only for a specified and appropriate educational or assistance purpose for the time necessary to achieve the educational goal.

V. Teacher Responsibilities for Animal Visitors in Classrooms

(1) Treatment of Animals. Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animals in the classroom. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and safety.

(2) Exhibits: Each teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students under his/her direction whenever there is an exhibit or activity involving animals in the school.

VI. Owner Responsibility for Animal Visitors

(1) Owners shall be solely responsible for the care/safety of their animals and for injuries sustained to the animal or to any people due to the presence of the animals at the school.

(2) All animals brought for exhibit must be restrained by their owner/handler.

(3) Owners walking animals on school grounds must follow city or county ordinances regarding leashing and sanitation.

(4) Principals have the authority to exclude persons and their animals from play fields when he/she determines that there are associated health and/or safety concerns.

VII. Limitations on Animal Visitors

(1) No domesticated mammals, including dogs, cats, primates, birds, or livestock shall be allowed in school buildings or grounds while school is in session unless permitted by the Principal and proof of appropriate and/or current rabies vaccination is provided. This limitation applies to faculty, staff, and student animals, as well as those of the public.

(2) No wild animals including skunks, raccoons, bats, squirrels, monkeys, amphibians or birds shall be allowed unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animals (i.e. zookeepers, veterinarians, etc.)

(3) No poisonous animals are allowed unless brought in cages/containers that prevent contact with student and staff members.

(4) No animals will be allowed free range in the facility or on the grounds.

(5) Due to health and safety concerns, animals will be excluded from school events and activities except where animals are an approved part of the event or activity. This limitation does not apply to guide dogs or assistance animals.

(6) Horseback riding, pony rides, and donkey basketball on school grounds or school parking lots are permitted only upon prior approval by the Superintendent/designee.

(7) Animals may not be transported on a school bus. Service animals would be the only exception.

VIII. Injuries

Staff members or students who have been bitten or otherwise injured by an animal shall report such incident to the Principal immediately. Parents shall be notified in the case of student injury. The person most knowledgeable about the incident shall complete an incident report and forward it to the Office of Operations.

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 336.067

ORS 346.620

OAR 581-053-0010

OAR 581-053-0015

OAR 581-053-0545(4)(c)(V)

OAR 581-053-0550(5)(u)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 104 Stat. 327, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. (2006).

28 CFR §§ 35.104, 35.136 (2006).

Cross Reference:

GBCD-AR: Staff Responsibility

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