

POLICY 6163.7

CLASSROOM PETS

Drafted: April 13 2018

Adopted: _____

Revised: Pending

Frequency of Review _____

1.0 RATIONALE

1.01 The Board recognizes that students can benefit from the introduction of a domestic animal to the classroom to enhance student learning, and to provide a therapeutic measure.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.01 **Domestic Animal** is defined as an animal of a species of vertebrates that has been domesticated by humans so as to live and breed in a tame condition and/or depends on humankind for survival.

3.0 POLICY

3.01 Classroom pets may be kept for the purpose of contributing to a structured humane educational curriculum if:

3.01.1 It has been established that there are no students who would be adversely affected by animals in the classroom;

3.01.2 The animal is a domesticated animal and is not permitted to breed;

3.01.3 The animal is not a nocturnal species and has a sleep pattern compatible with the school day;

3.01.4 The animal is capable of living in the classroom overnight without supervision; and

3.01.5 The teacher takes sole responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal.

3.02 Animals will be removed from the classroom:

3.02.1 If the animal places the safety of students or staff in jeopardy or becomes a health hazard.

3.02.2 If the animal is an impediment to learning.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

4.01 **The Board of Education** is responsible to ensure compliance with the School Act.

4.02 **The Superintendent** is responsible to ensure that District policy is upheld and regulations are enforced.

5.0 REFERENCES

- i. Regulation 6163.7 - Classroom Pets
- ii. B.C. SPCA - Statement on Classroom Pets
- iii. National Parks of Canada - Domestic Animal Regulations

Regulation 6163.7

CLASSROOM PETS

Background

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the greatest possible level of safety for students, staff and animals with regards to pet animals kept in school buildings.

1.0 The animals shall:

- 1.1 Not be allowed to roam freely within the school setting.
- 1.2 Not be left in schools during holiday periods.

2.0 Principals shall:

- 2.1. Be consulted prior to the inclusion of a live animal in the classroom.

3.0 Teachers shall:

- 3.1 Ensure that the following conditions have been met prior to introducing an animal into a classroom:
 - 3.1.1. Procedures on the safe handling and care of the animal are posted and reviewed with the students which states that the animal is only handled by students when:
 - 3.1.1.1. It does not endanger or stress the animal;
 - 3.1.1.2. The handling of the animal is related to the curriculum being taught;
 - 3.1.1.3. The handling of the animal is in accordance to species-specific handling instructions; and
 - 3.1.1.4. The student is supervised by the experienced caregiver or teacher.
 - 3.1.2. Procedures for the feeding of the animal and maintenance of the enclosure for hygienic purposes are established.
 - 3.1.3. Parent(s) or guardian(s) are informed of the intent to keep classroom pet(s).
- 3.2 Take responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal during weekends, holidays, and school breaks.
- 3.3 Ensure that an animal is removed from the classroom if the animal may place the safety of children/or staff in jeopardy or is a health hazard for students/staff or is an impediment to learning.
- 3.4 Be responsible for the removal of:
 - 3.1.1. All refuse or waste pertaining to classroom animals and placed in the appropriate receptacle safely; and
 - 3.1.2. The animal in the event of death, is to be disposed of in a manner that is safe and sensitive to student emotions.