

## OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

<b>DATE:</b>	June 25, 2002	<b>PR.549 SCH: Animals in Classrooms</b>
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:</b>		

**Purpose:** To outline the guidelines to allow for the classroom experience of animals in the classroom

Living things make an important contribution to education of students. Through keeping animals young students learn about their needs and characteristics, and begin to recognize the great variety of living things.

In order to foster concern and respect for living things, it is essential that all animals be well maintained.

There must always be proper planning for the correct care and maintenance of them, including the potential difficulties of weekends and holidays.

Of greater growing concern is the ever-increasing level of allergies/asthma among our population especially in child.

The introduction or continuing presence of any animal into a classroom must take into account these concerns.

In order to allow for the classroom experience of animals, teachers must practice responsible management of animals in the classroom and obtain approval of the Principal before bringing animals into a classroom.

The following is a list of issues that must be considered or ensured when animals are present in the classroom.

1. Do students or staff have any allergies to certain types of animals?
2. Are there any students or staff fearful of a certain type of animal?
3. Are there religious believes that may impact on the presence of a living thing in a classroom?
4. Are there appropriate cages for the animals?
5. Are classroom teachers aware of the responsibility to clean and maintain animal enclosures?

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6. Are appropriate steps in place to ensure a clean and healthy environment for animals over weekends and holidays?

**General Precautions**

1. Avoid keeping animals such as turtles and birds as they are prone to parasite infections.
2. Do not let animals roam freely in classrooms.
3. All animal waste and cage bedding material must be placed in a sealed plastic bag for disposal. (Caretakers are not responsible for the clean up of animals in classrooms).
4. If a scratch or bite breaks the surface of the skin, immediately clean the affected area and report the incident to the Principal.
5. Wash hands thoroughly after handling animals.
6. Cats and dogs are not to be kept in schools but may be welcomed as occasional supervised visitors only after approval of the Principal.