

Animals in Schools

BACKGROUND

The charter board believes in providing an inclusive environment at our school by accommodating individuals who require the use of a service dog. The board is also committed to its Charter/Collegiate purposes regarding the delivery of authentic work-integrated learning in identified career pathways such as Animal and Health Sciences.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Each request for the use of a service dog will be considered on an individual basis with the will to accommodate.

Providing for the inclusion of animals in schools is recognized as an opportunity for significant, authentic experiences that enhance pathway learning in Animal Sciences.

Fusion Education Association works closely with its industry and post-secondary partners regarding the alignment of policies and processes so that students can successfully transition to other Animal Sciences opportunities.

DEFINITIONS

Service Dog: means a dog that has been trained based on the Alberta Training Standard and accredited by Assistance Dogs International.

PURPOSE

1. With the approval of the principal, teachers may bring animals into schools:
 - a. As an accredited Service Dog
 - b. For instructional purposes for a one-day visit or extended periods of time.
 - i. Instructional purposes for the presence of animals in schools may include:
 - industry-appropriate and career pathway training
 - as subjects for observation and data gathering on body characteristics, habits, movement, feeding behaviour, instinctive reactions and care;
 - developing a sense of responsibility, kindness and concern for other living beings; and supporting the learning of a healthy respect for the animals in our local environment.

PROCEDURES FOR ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

1. Administration will consult with the requesting individual to develop a plan that outlines expectations and responsibilities as applicable below:
 - a. the purpose and/or curriculum connections,
 - b. the ethical and appropriate care of animals,

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- c. animal excreta and clean-up,
 - d. school considerations such as classroom seating, access to spaces,
 - e. guidelines for employees, students and public around the animals,
 - f. information and training required regarding animal care including feeding, cleaning and accommodations,
 - g. vaccinations
 - h. plans for onsite animal care outside of school hours such as evenings, weekends and holidays,
 - i. emergency response plan including injury or end of life for the animal.
 - j. responsibility for costs and damages.
2. Animals are not permitted to roam freely in the school building.
 3. Dogs are not permitted on school grounds in accordance with the City of Calgary Bylaw with the exception of accredited Service Dogs.
 4. The following are not permitted in schools either as visitors or as classroom animals:
 - a. unescorted animals;
 - b. poisonous animals;
 - c. indigenous wild animals; and
 - d. rats.

INVESTIGATIONS AND CONCERNS

1. Members of the Fusion community may submit reports or inquires regarding animals in school to Administration.
2. Administration will investigate and respond as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.
3. Fusion Education Association reserves the right to ask the owner to remove the animal if the animal is not in control.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Alberta Human Rights Act, Alberta Service Dogs Act

APPROVED: February, 2025