

Animals in Classroom

The Dayton School Board recognizes that animals can be used in classrooms as valuable teaching aides in specific situations. However, the Dayton School Board also recognizes its responsibility for the health and safety of all students and staff members. Therefore, the Dayton School Board places the following limits upon live animals being brought into the schools.

- A. Permission must be obtained from the Principal before any animals are brought into the school. If students need to bring domesticated animals (pets) to school for educational purposes, they must first consult with their teacher(s) who, in turn, will request permission from the Principal. The Principal will consult with the school nurse or assistant to insure that all student allergies and other health needs are being considered. Parental contact must be made by the Principal or designee prior to permission being given for the animal to be allowed in school. Animals may not be transported in school vehicles.
- B. No pets will be allowed in school without first having proof of current rabies vaccination (if appropriate) provided.
- C. No wild animals will be allowed in school unless they are under control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animal and properly licensed by state or federal agencies as appropriate. Students will not be allowed to handle wild animals. Bats are not permitted in school at any time.
- D. All animals brought to school must be restrained by the owner/handler. The teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students whenever there is an activity or exhibit involving animals in the school.
- E. If a stray or wild animal appears on the school grounds, children shall not be allowed in the area until the animal has left the area or been removed by the local animal control officer, game warden or other appropriate official.
- F. Animals may be kept in the classroom only for the time required for a specific project or demonstration. While in the classroom, animals must be housed in appropriate containers and cared for in a safe and humane manner. Animals may not be kept in classrooms on non-school days.
- G. If a student is bitten/injured by an animal on school premises, the Principal/designee, school nurse and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible. If a staff member or visitor is bitten/injured, the Principal must be notified. The Principal/designee must notify appropriate public health authorities and the Maine Department of Human Services and Bureau of Health, of each incident.
- H. No animal may be used for any purpose where the normal health of the animal is interfered with or where pain or distress is caused. Dissection of dead animals shall be confined to the classroom and to the presence of students engaged in the study of dissection and shall not be for the purpose of exhibition.
- I. Individuals with disabilities will be allowed to have "guide animals" as required.