

FILE: ING

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED:	October 17, 1996	FILE SECTOR: INSTRUCTION
DATE REVISED:	February 15, 2001	POLICY TITLE: ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL
DATE REVISED:	July 19, 2007	
DATE REVISED:	March 20, 2014	
DATE REVISED:	June 22, 2020	

Animals may be brought into the classroom for school purposes, but only under conditions which insure the health and safety of the students and the well-being of the animal. All animals must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for and properly handled.

CROSS REFERENCE: ING-R
LEGAL REFERENCE:

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When considering and maintaining animals in the school, the following regulations apply:

- Prior approval of the principal and the classroom teacher must be obtained before animals are brought into the school. If the principal receives a parent complaint, they will take appropriate action which may include having the animal removed from the school.
- The teacher must assume primary responsibility for the humane treatment of the animal while in the classroom.
- The teacher is responsible for being aware of students who may have allergies that could be aggravated by exposure to a particular animal.
- If the teachers and/or principal become aware of any potentially harmful health or safety concerns, adverse smells or disruptive sounds regarding animals in the school, they are directed to take appropriate steps, including immediate removal of the animal if necessary.
- Live animals should not be kept in school for extended periods if proper weekend or holiday care cannot be maintained.
- When animals are in school they must be properly housed, have adequate food and water and their pens must be kept clean. Animals may not be transported on school buses.
- The Wisconsin Humane Society recommends minimizing the handling of animals -- particularly by younger children. Improper handling of the animal may cause an otherwise tame and docile pet to bite or scratch.
- This policy does not relate to the practice of keeping animals in special science facilities such as a biology laboratory. However, in those situations proper procedures must be observed to assure that animals are maintained in a humane manner.