

## **ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY**

### **Background**

The District strives to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and others on District property. Further, the District recognizes that there are valid instructional and/or therapeutic reasons for animals to be on District property. By “instructional purposes” is meant that the presence of animals directly supports the learning strategies or the achievement of the objective of an approved educational program. An acceptance to this practice shall be animals such as service or guide dogs. Under no circumstances shall animals that pose actual or potential safety and/or health risks to students and employees be allowed in schools or classrooms.

### **Administrative Procedures**

1. The Principal must provide approval to have the animals brought into schools for instructional purposes.
  2. Prior to allowing animals in schools or classrooms, steps are to be taken to ensure that students and employees are not allergic to or fearful of the presence of these animals, that the animals will present no physical danger to students or employees, and that the animals are free from diseases or parasites. The above notwithstanding, animals are permitted to be on District property to support prescribed learning outcomes and/or for therapeutic purposes, again, with the prior written approval of the Associate Superintendent, or designate. Animals which may be permitted on District property include but may not be limited to the following:
    - 2.1 Trained service or guide dogs brought by a person with a disability, as defined in the *BC Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, “Service Dogs” are those trained to assist individuals who utilize a wheelchair. “Guide Dogs” are those trained as a guide for a person who is blind or visually impaired.  
Police dogs under the control of a police officer,
    - 2.2 Well-mannered pets brought for short visits during a day for instructional purposes such as “show and tell” or for a demonstration at a school assembly.
    - 2.3 Small animals kept in the classroom or school under the supervision and care of a teacher. The teacher shall have a definite instructional purpose for maintaining these animals in the classroom.
  3. Small animals such as hamsters or gerbils maintained in the classrooms or school shall be kept confined in a cage, or an aquarium, in the case of fish. Dogs or cats shall not be confined in a cage.
-

