

School District #62 (Sooke)

ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY & IN CLASSROOMS	No.: D-121
	Effective: April 28/09 Revised: Feb. 23/10; Sept. 27/22; Jan. 28/25 Reviewed: June 7/22; June 28/22; Sept. 27/22; Dec. 3/24; Dec. 17/24; Jan. 28/25

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to ensure the greatest possible level of safety for students and staff with regard to animals on School District property and in school buildings.

In general, animals are not allowed to be on School District property during school hours. This general prohibition includes domestic dogs, cats, birds, and other pets, and especially applies to potentially dangerous exotic animals.

Some exceptions may be allowed, only with the prior approval of the Principal, and could include:

- Police dogs under the control of a police officer.
- Pets for show-and-tell.
- Small pets kept in classrooms under the supervision and care of a teacher.
- A demonstration at a school assembly.
- Bird/pest control animals

Principals and Vice-Principals reserve the right to revoke privileges on a person-to-person basis.

Animals included in the exceptions listed above may be permitted provided:

- The animal is being brought in for the purpose of contributing to a structured humane educational curriculum.
- It has been established that there are no students or staff who would be adversely affected by animals in the school or classroom.
- The animal is a domesticated animal in a confined habitat or under control and is not permitted to breed.
- The animal is not a nocturnal species and has a sleep pattern compatible with the school day.
- The animal can live in the classroom overnight without supervision.
- The teacher takes sole responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal.

Animals will be removed from the school or classroom:

- If the animal places the safety of students or staff in jeopardy or becomes a health hazard.
- If the animal is an impediment to learning.

Owners of animals will be responsible for the safe and sanitary removal of their pet's excrement from buildings and grounds and may be liable for any damage to property or injuries to staff or students.

Venomous snakes and insects will not be allowed on School District property or in school buildings without the written consent of the Principal who will be satisfied that they are caged and present no safety issues.

For clarity, this policy does not apply to Guide or Service Dogs as defined in the BC *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*. For students, Guide/Service Dog requirements will be addressed within the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). For staff, Guide/Service Dog requirements will be addressed within the workplace accommodation process.