

Instruction

Animals at School

The Governing Board recognizes that animals can be an effective teaching aid and can help support the district's instructional program. In addition, instruction related to the care and treatment of animals teaches students a sense of responsibility and promotes the humane treatment of living creatures.

A teacher may bring an animal to school or arrange for students in his/her class to bring an animal to school for instructional purposes upon written permission from the principal or designee and subject to administrative regulation and other reasonable health, safety, and sanitation precautions. Teachers shall be responsible for ensuring that animals are strictly controlled and for ensuring that all such precautions are observed so as to protect both the students and the animal.

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs on school premises or on school transportation. (Education Code [39839](#); Civil Code [54.2](#))

When any animal is brought into the classroom, the principal or designee shall provide written notification to all parents/guardians of students in the affected class asking them to verify whether their child has any known allergies, asthma, or other health condition that may be affected by the animal's presence.

The district assumes no liability for the safety of animals voluntarily brought to school.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[233.5](#) Instruction in kindness to pets and humane treatment of living creatures

[39839](#) Transportation of guide dogs, signal dogs, service dogs

[51202](#) Instruction in personal and public health and safety

[51540](#) Safe and humane treatment of animals at school

CIVIL CODE

[54.1](#) Access to public places

[54.2](#) Guide, signal, or service dogs, right to accompany

GOVERNMENT CODE

[810-996.6](#) California Tort Claims Act, especially:

[815](#) Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity

[835](#) Conditions of liability

VEHICLE CODE

[21113](#) Public grounds

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

[1216](#) Transportation of property

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

[1400-1482](#) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

[794](#) Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

COURT DECISIONS

Sullivan v. Vallejo City USD, 731 F.Supp. 947 (1990)