

Parnassus Preparatory School

Executive Limitations Policies Group

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL POLICY - EXEC

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the circumstances where animals are permitted at Parnassus Preparatory School.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The Board recognizes that animals have educational value in the school setting. Live animals in the classroom provide opportunities to learn about diversity, habitat, humane care, animal growth and development, reproduction, and behavior.
- B. Prior approval must be received from the principal before any animals are brought into the school, which approval will only be granted upon demonstration by the teacher that the animal will be used to further the curriculum.
- C. Significant care must be taken to insure the safety and well-being of the students, staff, and the animal, in accordance with the guidelines set forth herein.
- D. Dogs that are specifically certified to assist individuals with disabilities will be permitted. For students, the need for a service dog will be documented in the individual educational plan (IEP). This plan will also include any necessary precautions.

III. GUIDELINES

A. RESIDENT ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

- 1. Live animals are only permitted in the classroom where they serve an educational purpose. Teachers must seek the approval of the principal prior to allowing an animal in the classroom. The principal will examine the totality of the circumstances when considering whether to allow the animal, including, but not limited to, the educational value of the animal, the teachers familiarity and experience with the animal, the proposed habitat for the animal and any safety concerns (including student allergies (see A2)).
- 2. Teachers must notify staff and parents of all students who are present on a regular basis in the classroom where the animal where be housed about the proposed animal and solicit information about potential allergies. Teacher, principal and school nurse will review any responses and consider them when making the decision to permit the animal.
- 3. All resident animals must be animals that are commonly kept as pets. Additionally, in no event shall wild animals, stray animals, reptiles, amphibians, baby chicks and ducks, psittacine birds, and poisonous animals (including insects, reptiles, and amphibians) be permitted as resident animals.

4. Animals must be procured from a reputable source and must have received all customary vaccines and medications, and be cared for in accordance with best practices recommended by veterinarians or animal experts.
5. The classroom teacher must assume primary responsibility for the humane treatment of the animal while in the classroom. Animals must be properly housed, have adequate food and water, and their habitats must be kept clean. The classroom teacher is responsible for developing rules for student/animal interaction. These guidelines should include student training on how to handle the animal, and all children who handle animals should be instructed to wash their hands immediately after handling them. Children should not be allowed to handle or clean up any form of animal waste (feces, urine, blood, etc.)
6. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and safety. No animals will be housed in the schools during the summer break when school is not in session. Animals may not be transported on school buses.
7. Teachers considering an animal must assure that resident animals entering the classroom are healthy and free of transmissible diseases or other problems that may endanger human health. If a resident animal bites or scratches a person, the classroom teacher will notify the principal, nurse, parents, and the animal control officer with the Maple Grove Police Department. It is the responsibility of the animal control officer to determine if additional measures need to be taken.
8. If any staff member becomes aware of potentially harmful health or safety concerns, adverse smells, or disruptive sounds regarding animals in the school, he/she is directed to notify the principal, who will take appropriate steps, including immediate removal of the animal if necessary.

B. Animal Visitation to School

1. In the event that there is a request to allow an animal to visit the school setting, the school principal must approve all requests for such visitation using the same guidelines as set forth in Section A(1) above.

C. Certified Service Dogs

1. Dogs that are specifically certified to assist individuals with disabilities will be permitted at the school. For students, the need for a service dog will be documented in the individual educational plan (IEP). This plan will also include any necessary precautions.