

1. Purpose

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario recognizes that animals have educational value in the school setting, but only under conditions that insure the safety and well being of the students, staff, and the animal.

2. Resident Animals in Schools

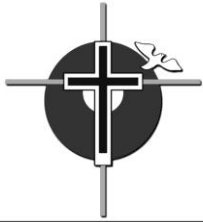
- a) Resident animals are NOT permitted in any CDSBEO schools.
- b) Animals are considered to “reside” at the school if their visit extends beyond the period of two (2) consecutive school days.

3. Grandfather Clause

Any school which currently has a resident animal will not be required to permanently remove the animal from the school; however, the school is not permitted to acquire any new resident animals.

4. Visiting Animals in Schools

- a) Consideration of a Visiting Animal(s)
 - i) A teacher must have a clear understanding of, and a strong commitment to, the responsible care of living animals before making the decision to use live animals for educational study.
 - ii) From time to time, students or parents may request to bring an animal to visit the school or a particular classroom. The school principal must approve all requests for such visitations.
- b) Animal Selection
 - i) Teachers considering an animal(s) must assure that visiting animals entering the classroom are healthy and free of transmissible diseases or other problems that may endanger human health.
 - ii) Animals that are unacceptable as visiting animals include:



Wild Animals: For the purpose of this policy, a wild animal is any mammal that is not one of the following:

- Domestic cat or dog
- Pet rabbit
- Pet rodent (e.g. mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs)
- Fish or tadpoles in a contained aquarium

Poisonous Animals: Spiders, insects, reptiles, and amphibians

All reptiles and Amphibians

Stray Animals

Baby Chicks or Ducks

All types of Birds

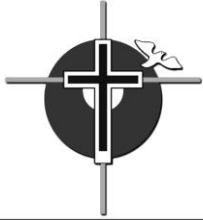
iii) Exceptions to the unacceptable list of visiting animals may be made in the case where a professional, who has experience handling wildlife, presents the animal. Students, staff, or visitors to the school may only handle the animals if their safety can be completely guaranteed to the satisfaction of the principal of the school.

c) **Approval of Visiting Animals**

- i) The principal must approve all visiting animal(s) that are brought into the school.
- ii) Prior to the visiting animal(s) being brought into the school, all students and staff who are in the classroom or who might come in contact with the visiting animal(s) are to be surveyed, to ensure that no one will suffer health risks because of the visiting animal(s).

5. Care of a Visiting Animal

- a) The classroom teacher must assume primary responsibility for the humane treatment of the animal(s) while in the classroom. Animals must be properly housed, have adequate food and water, and their habitats must be kept clean.
- b) The classroom teacher is responsible for developing guidelines for student/animal interaction. These guidelines should include training on how to handle the animal.
- c) Education with animals should be used to reemphasize proper hygiene and hand washing recommendations. All students who handle the animal(s) should be constantly instructed to wash their hands immediately after handling them.
- d) Animals should not be kept or allowed in the vicinity of sinks where students wash their hands, in any area where food is prepared, stored, or served, or in areas used for the



cleaning or storage of food utensils or dishes.

- e) An animal is not permitted to remain on the school property for more than two consecutive school days. Under NO circumstance should an animal be left in the school over a weekend, during summer holidays, Christmas break, or March break.
- f) Children should not be allowed to handle or clean up any form of animal waste (feces, urine, blood, etc.). Animal waste should be disposed of in accordance with universal precaution's procedures.
- g) Animals shall not be allowed to roam free around the classroom or school.
- h) Any time that a visiting animal bites or scratches a person, the classroom teacher will notify the principal, parents, if the victim is a student, and ensure that the appropriate medical attention is received.
- i) If the teacher/principal becomes aware of potential harmful health or safety concerns, adverse smells, or disruptive sounds regarding animals in the school he/she must take the appropriate steps, including immediate removal of the animal(s) if necessary.

6. Transportation of Animals

Animals may not be transported on school busses with the exception of animals certified to assist persons with disabilities.

7. Certified Service Dogs

Dogs that are specifically certified to assist individuals with disabilities will be permitted on all board property and at all board events. For students, the need for a service dog will be documented in the individual education plan (IEP). This plan will also include any necessary precautions.

8. Dog Obedience Schools

School facilities may not be used for training of dogs to ensure a clean environment for our students.