

Administrative Procedure 325

Students

DOGS IN SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

The charter board recognizes the opportunity for motivational experiences and learning opportunities through the inclusion of dogs in the school environment. The inclusion of dogs must take into consideration the health, safety and security of students, staff and the animals.

PROCEDURES

1. With the approval of the principal, teachers may bring a dog into the school for instructional purposes for a one day or short term visit.
2. Instructional purposes for the presence of dogs in the school may include:
 - 2.1 as subjects for observation and data gathering on body characteristics, habits, movement and instinctive reactions;
 - 2.2 talking and writing stories about dogs to support language development;
 - 2.3 supporting the development of a sense of responsibility, kindness and concern for other living beings; or
 - 2.4 supporting the learning of a healthy respect for dogs in our local environment.

CONDITIONS

1. Prior to introducing a dog into a classroom, the teacher must ensure that the following conditions have been met:
 - 1.1 students and school personnel must not be afraid of or allergic to dogs;
 - 1.2 the dog must be in good health, free of disease with no tendencies to bite or scratch;
 - 1.3 the teacher bringing a dog into the school must know the history of the dog including currency of vaccinations and licensing;
 - 1.4 the dog must not present aggressive behavior toward students or school personnel; and
 - 1.5 parents must be informed.
2. A dog brought into the school for a visit must be leashed and under the control of a responsible adult.
3. Dogs are not permitted to roam freely in the school building or on school grounds.
4. If conditions change (dog, student or environment), withdrawal of the dog can be at the discretion of the principal.
5. Dogs may not be kept in the school building beyond regular hours.
6. Dogs are not permitted on school grounds in accordance with the City of Calgary Bylaw 23M2006 with the exception of accredited service dogs.

Legal Reference: *Education Act*
Cross Reference: City of Calgary Bylaw 23M2006
AP-336 Student Health and Safety
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