

Regulation

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The presence of live animals in the classroom presents special hazards. Both claw scratches, which may introduce a tetanus infection, and bites, which carry the added danger of rabies as well as tetanus, must be prevented. Domesticated and "wild" animals present the same hazards and should be observed and handled with the same precautions.

Procedures in the Event of Scratch or Bite by an Animal

If, in spite of all precautions, someone is scratched or bitten, teachers will follow the procedures below:

- A. Prevent further injury.
- B. Report the occurrence immediately to the nurse and the principal, who shall see that the person receives first aid and parents/ guardians are notified.
- C. Confine the animal and restrict access until the animal has been evaluated by the appropriate personnel;
- D. While it is the examining physician's responsibility to notify the board of health of possible contagion, it is also a responsibility of each person connected with such an incident, teacher, nurse, principal, Superintendent, parent/guardian, to see that all notifications are given, and that animals are held for observation until contrary instructions are received.

Procedures for the Protection of Animals

The following regulations are established to protect live animals used in school studies:

- A. A teacher or other qualified adult supervisor must assume primary responsibility for the purposes and conditions of any study that involves live animals. If the school faculty does not include persons with training in the proper care of laboratory animals, the services of such a person on a consulting basis should be sought. Often a local veterinarian will offer this kind of help.
- B. Each study involving animals should have as a clearly defined objective the teaching of some biological principle(s).
- C. All animals used must be lawfully acquired in accordance with State and local laws.

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM (continued)

- D. The health of the animal used in any study shall be a prime concern of the teacher and/or student investigator. Gentle handling, proper feeding, and provision of sanitary quarters shall be strictly observed at all times. Any experiment in nutritional deficiency may proceed only to the point where the purposes of the experiment are achieved. Appropriate measures shall then be taken to correct the deficiency, if such action is feasible. Otherwise, the animal must be disposed of by humane methods.
- E. When the animals are housed in school quarters over vacation periods, adequate housing must be provided and a qualified caretaker must be assigned the specific duties of care and feeding.
- F. Teachers of students pursuing investigations other than during the regular class periods in school as part of a school assignment or project, such as a school science fair, must also be assured that the above principles are observed.

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