

**Sample School Policy for Animals in the Schools –  
Exclusion of Feathered and Fur Animals  
Recommendation # 1**

**Last Reviewed January 2003**

It is the intent of \_\_\_\_\_ to provide a healthy learning  
(School)  
environment for all students. The school recognizes that animals have been part of the learning experience at school for many years and they have beneficial and therapeutic effects for some students including acceptance, bonding, caring and teaching of responsibility. However, for students with asthma, animals can trigger a respiratory reaction that in some cases can be severe. Other potential consequences include allergic reactions, scratches and bites, infections, and infestations.

In an effort to provide a safe environment for all students, the following applies. (This does not apply to service animals.) The most effective method to control student exposure to animal allergens is to keep the school free of feathered or furred animals. All animals, furred and feathered, will not be permitted on school grounds.

If a stray or wild animal appears on school grounds, students should be kept away from the area until the animal leaves the area or is removed by a local animal control officer, game warden or other appropriate official.

If a student is bitten/injured by an animal on school premises, the principal, school nurse, and parent/guardian must be notified as soon as possible. If a visitor or staff is bitten, the principal must be notified. A report must be made as applicable to the Maine Bureau of Health.

Reptiles are a source of salmonella and hand washing after exposure is stressed.

No live vertebrate, except eggs, may be used in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade as part of a scientific experiment or for any other purpose in which the animal is experimentally medicated or drugged in a manner to cause painful reactions or to induce painful or lethal pathological conditions, or in which the animal is injured through any other type of treatment, experiment or procedure, including, but not limited to, anesthetization or electric shock or where the normal health of the animal is interfered with or where pain or distress is caused.

No person may, in the presence of any student in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, practice vivisection or exhibit a vivisected animal. Dissection of dead animals or any portions of dead animals in school shall be confined to the classroom and to the presence of students engaged in the study of dissection and shall not be for the purpose of exhibition.

Legal Reference: 7 MRSA 3971