

<p align="center">DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Danbury, Connecticut</p>	<p align="center">REGULATIONS</p>	
<p align="center"><i>ANIMAL CARE AND STUDY</i></p>	<p>Reviewed: 11/12/08</p>	<p>Policy No. 8-140.1 Page</p>

CARE OF ANIMALS

Proper management is defined as any system of housing and care that permits animals to grow, mature, reproduce and behave normally and to be maintained in physical comfort and good health. Housing of animals should be designed with the animals’ physical comfort as a primary consideration. Housing should include such factors as keeping the animals dry and clean or providing an adequate aquatic or marine environment; providing sufficient space to permit freedom of movement, normal pastoral adjustments and adequate exercise; providing convenient access to clean food and water and providing proper temperature and light. Cages should be glass or wire mesh, which is sufficiently small so that pencils and fingers may not be poked through.

Care includes keeping the animal facilities clean, neat and uncluttered. Water should be fresh and changed daily. Food should be fresh, unspoiled and insect free; dried foods may lose nutritional value if they are over 90 days old. Foods should be stored in a dry place at a temperature of less than 60° F. Litter should not be edible or dusty and should be free of harmful inclusions. It should not come in contact with watering devices. Enough litter or bedding should be used to keep the animals dry between changes, which should be made as often as it is necessary to keep the animals, dry, clean and order free.

Cages, aquaria, feeders and watering devices should be washed and sanitized as often as necessary to keep them clean and free from contamination. Care also includes keeping animals in a protected area or under the direct observation of teacher or aide to eliminate unsupervised interaction between students and animals. Small rodents (mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters and guinea pigs) are equipped with large, sharp teeth and are easily provoked to bite hard. Any bite that breaks the surface of the skin should be immediately reported to the nurse for prompt attention. Therefore, animals should not be removed from their cages, handled or returned to their cages, without the direct supervision of teacher/aide/adult. Under no circumstances should small animals be allowed free run in a classroom. They are difficult to catch and very easily injured.

Provisions should be made for daily observations and care for all animals including weekend, vacations and emergencies.

In no case should animals remain in the classroom if it is demonstrated that any student is suffering an allergic response to their presence.

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<p><u>EXPERIMENTATION</u></p> <p>Regulations strictly forbid the use of vertebrate animals in any elementary or secondary school program which will in any way cause pain or incapacitation, cripple or kill such an animal. Such experimentation, while perhaps of scientific interest, runs counter to the goals of increasing an appreciation of the value of life and living things and has no place in elementary or secondary school curricula or classrooms. Use of invertebrate animals requires consultation with and permission of the Department Coordinator.</p> <p>Individual experiments (in or out of the classroom) using vertebrate animals for science fair participation requires pre-acceptance of the experiment procedure (before the procedure is attempted) plus the written promise to supervise from a doctor of veterinary medicine or person with n earned doctorate in the field. Without this pre-acceptance, the project will not be allowed in the competition.</p> <p>Experiments done at the secondary level, which may cause temporary effects such as research in nutrition or ingestion of hazardous or reputedly toxic materials, may proceed only to the point where symptoms of the deficiency or toxicity appear. Appropriate measures shall then be taken to correct the deficiency or toxicity. Before such experimentation can take place, the teacher must consult with the Department Coordinator. If there is concern for the activity, relative to possible harm to the animal, the Coordinator should consult with a doctor of veterinary medicine, or a person with an earned doctorate in the field.</p> <p>Within these guidelines, animals will continue to hold a positive and important position in elementary and secondary school classrooms.</p>		

