

**THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE**

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE:

Care of Animals in Schools

SECTION/CODE:

School Operations D – 15

APPROVAL DATE:

April 3, 2023

SUPERSEDES:

June 12, 2017

NUMBER OF PAGES:

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POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene to permit the introduction of animals to the school for their educational value in achieving instructional objectives in the manner as outlined in the Administrative Procedures.

POLICY PURPOSE

To provide direction as when and how animals can be used in the school for educational purposes.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. Introduction of animals in a classroom or the school must be approved by the Principal/Vice Principal prior to the animal entering the school.
2. Activities involving the use of animals in the school may be carried out by students as an approved activity under the supervision of the teacher and with the permission of the Principal.
3. Proper care and living conditions of animals in the school shall be provided in accordance with the Provincial Animals Welfare Services Act, Ontario Regulation 444/19 (3) Basic Standards of Care for All Animals.
4. The care of animals in the school shall be conducted in accordance with the Operating Procedures.
5. The classroom teacher shall communicate with parents about the introduction of a classroom animal.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. The Provincial Animals Welfare Services Act, Ontario Regulation 444/19 (3) Basic Standards of Care for All Animals will be used for the care, housing and procedures for animals
2. Living Conditions

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2.1 General

- a. Student health will not be negatively impacted by the presence of any animal.
- b. An animal will be held for only a short period of time to satisfy an educational goal.
- c. The teacher must become familiar with and provide for the optimum living conditions required by an animal before the animal is introduced to the school. The teacher and the Principal will be jointly responsible for ensuring that all conditions are fulfilled.
- d. Where applicable, animals must be up-to-date with all vaccinations.
- e. No animals are to be left in the school over the weekend.

2.2 Cages

- a. Cages must: - be sanitary.
- b. be capable of being thoroughly and easily cleaned
- c. be large enough to allow room for exercise.
- d. be designed to allow for a continuous supply of water and for a clean supply of food (not on the floor).
- e. be proof against the escape of the animal onto the school site.

3. Feeding:

A regular schedule of feeding must be established to conform to the requirements of the animal concerned. This schedule must take into account potential interruptions of schedule.

4. Cleaning:

- a. A regular schedule of cleaning (not less frequent than once per week) must be established to conform to the requirements of the animal concerned. This schedule must take account of holidays and other potential long-term Interruptions of the schedule.
- b. Clean litter must be used and changed regularly.

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OPERATING PROCEDURES (Continued)

5. Location of Animals:

The animals must be located in a room in which the heat and ventilation are such that neither the animals nor human beings will suffer from overheating, cold conditions or odour.

6. Disposal of Expired Animals:

Before animals are introduced to the school the teacher and Principal will ascertain from the local clerk of the municipality the by-laws and conditions relating to the disposal of the bodies of expired animals, should that occur this information will be shared with the Principal.

Provision will then be made by the teacher to abide by the regulation in the disposal of the animals that expire in the school.

7. Wild Animals in the Classroom:

Wild animals are not permitted on the school site.