



Animals in School

Background

Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority recognizes that animals can be of support in school for specific educational purposes. Animals may be in the classroom for observation only, not for experimentation. The purpose for keeping the animals needs to include but is not limited to, the Alberta Program of Studies. The life expectancy of an animal is to be considered before committing to long-term care of an animal.

Animals may cause allergic or asthmatic reactions. Animals can carry and pass harmful organisms, via touching or biting, which may cause illness to humans. Animals may hurt indoor air quality and possibly impact school resources due to required veterinary care due to illness. Animals may not be appropriate for all learning environments.

Responsibility for the humane and proper care of animals is the legal obligation and moral responsibility of those who have assumed stewardship of the animals. The teacher accepts full responsibility for and must closely supervise and monitor the care and use of animals in the classroom.

Student caregivers must be supervised and are to be taught proper methods of animal care and handling. It is against the law to hold Indigenous wild animals captive (e.g., gophers, crows).

Our school community is diverse and may include people who are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events. Pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances

Guidelines

#	Procedure	Roles & Responsibilities
1	If animals are to be used in the classroom with students, before bringing animals on site, submission of a written Hazard Assessment for Animals and pre-approval from the Principal is required. The assessment shall be kept on file at the site.	Principal
2	With the approval from the Principal, teachers may bring animals into schools for instructional purposes for a one-day visit or extended periods.	Principal
3	Instructional purposes for the presence of animals in schools may include:	Teachers and Principal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) as subjects for observation and data gathering on body characteristics, habits, movement, feeding behavior, and instinctive reactions; b) talking and writing stories about animals to support language development; c) supporting the development and learning of a sense of responsibility, kindness, and concern for other living beings; and d) supporting the development and learning of a healthy respect for the animals in our local environment. 	
4	<p>Before introducing an animal into a classroom, the teacher must ensure that the following conditions have been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. students and school personnel must not be afraid of or allergic to that type of animal; b. animals must be in good health, free of disease with no tendencies to bite or scratch; c. the owner of the cat/dog must show proof of current vaccinations and licensing; d. the teacher bringing the animal into the school must know the past history of the animal; e. the animal must not present aggressive behaviors towards the students or to school personnel; and f. parents must be informed. g. staff and students are to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals or animal items and before eating. 	Teachers
5	<p>Students are to be taught how to behave around an animal;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. students shall be instructed on how to behave around an animal. They shall not tease or provoke the animal or remove the animal's food. b. students are to be taught to keep their faces away from an animal's mouth, beak, or claws and never to kiss an animal. c. unsupervised handling of animals by any students is not to be permitted. 	Teachers
6	<p>An animal brought into the school for a visit must be leashed and under the control of a responsible adult. Where a leash cannot be used, the animal must be under the control of a responsible adult.</p>	Teachers and Principals

7	Animals are not permitted to roam freely in the school building or on the school grounds.	Principal
8	If, in the opinion of the principal, animal hygiene becomes a factor, approval to keep the animal in the school is withdrawn and the animal must be taken from the school at the end of the school day.	Principal
9	If conditions change (animal, student, or environment) withdrawal of the animal can be made at the discretion of the principal.	Principal
10	Only relatively small animals that are easily confined or caged, maintained, and handled may be kept in the classroom, such as tropical fish and small mammals	Teachers and Principal
11	Larger animals such as dogs and cats may not be kept in the school building beyond regular school hours.	Teachers and Principal
12	Accredited service dogs are permitted to accompany a student during regular school hours and activities providing they have met the requirements.	Teachers and Principal
13	The following are not permitted in schools either as visitors or as classroom animals: a) Unescorted animals; b) Poisonous animals; c) Indigenous wild animals; and d) Rats.	Teachers and Principal
14	The teacher must ensure: a) the ethical and humane treatment of animals is maintained and modeled, and b) any animal that is kept in the classroom receives adequate care and is not abused or neglected in any way.	Teachers
15	The teacher is responsible for: a) determining the care and feeding requirements for animals kept in the classroom;	Teachers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) ensuring appropriate standards of hygiene and sanitation will be met; c) ensuring that animal care procedures are posted and reviewed with the students; and d) providing or coordinating for a suitable enclosure for the animal, feeding, cleaning and other duties connected to the accommodation of the animal. 	
16	<p>The teacher must ensure that any student who assists the teacher with the care of the animals in the classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is properly trained by the teacher; and b) is under on-site supervision by the teacher with the teacher present but not necessarily constantly viewing the activity. 	Teachers
17	<p>The teacher must ensure that there is a plan in place to provide care to animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) after school hours, including weekends and holidays; and b) in a permanent home when classroom study is completed. 	Teachers
18	<p>The teacher must be prepared to deal with the death of or injury to the animals kept in the classroom or animals brought to the class as visitors.</p>	Teachers
19	<p>In the event of the death of an animal kept in the classroom, the animal must be disposed of safely and in a manner that is sensitive to student emotions and by current legislation.</p>	Teachers/Principal
20	<p>Dogs are not permitted on school grounds except accredited Service Dogs accompanying an individual on school property. This includes animals who are living in KTCEA rental units. Refer to AP 672 Pets in Rental Units for further information.</p>	Teacher/Principal
21	<p>Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the school office. School staff will contact local authorities and/or the First Nation for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.</p>	All School staff
21	<p>Staff must educate students on wildlife and animal safety at the school:</p>	All school staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stray dogs are not permitted on school grounds. b) students and staff are not permitted to feed stray dogs on school property. c) Students and staff are not permitted to approach or feed wildlife on school grounds. d) Students and staff must not approach wildlife or stray dog and must maintain a safe distance at all times. e) stray dogs pose as a risk to students and staff and have the ability to attack/bite. f) Stray dogs may carry diseases such as; rabies. 	
23	<p>If a student or staff receives an animal bite from a stray dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) wounds shall be immediately washed with soap and water; b) first-aid shall be applied as prudent to do so; c) the animal that has bitten the person shall be isolated appropriately; d) the Principal shall be immediately informed of the incident; e) an incident report and first aid record form shall be completed and submitted to the Health and Safety Department; and f) the Principal shall inform local health authorities, and Animal Control if a bite, from a canine, feline, or ferret, breaks the skin. Specifically; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. For injuries that break the skin, the Superintendent or designate shall be notified. 	All School Staff/Principal

Definitions:

Animal:

Is defined as an animal or classroom pet brought into the school for a presentation or approved to be kept in the classroom for some type of educational value, such as a means to stimulate learning and/or teach students about responsibility and compassion through their care and upkeep. The teacher is ultimately responsible for the care and maintenance of the classroom pet within the classroom and to ensure the health and safety of the school community\

Service Dog:

Is defined as “a dog trained as a guide for a disabled person and having the qualifications prescribed by the regulations.” (Service Dogs Act of Alberta, 2009). For this administrative

procedure, the service dog definition would include dogs that have been trained by a recognized program such as Canine Vision Dog Guides, Special Skills Dog Guides, Hearing Ear Dog Guides, Seizure Response Dog Guides, Autism Assistance Dog Guides, etc.

Educational Assistance Animal (EAA):

is an animal that works with its owner/handler as a team to improve a student's physical, social, emotional or cognitive functioning. An EAA can be useful for educational and motivational effectiveness for participants. An EAA is not a certified service dog. Examples of EAAs are library dogs and therapy animals. Provisions that apply to protecting people with disabilities and their service dogs do not apply to therapy animals and their handlers. Although therapy dogs are specially evaluated, trained and registered for their volunteer work, they do not undergo the same extensive specialized and unique training required of guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs.

References

AP 672 Pets in Rental Units

Procedure Amendments and Updates

The responsibility for updating and amending this procedure rests with the Associate Superintendent of Facilities and Operations in consultation with the Associate Superintendent of Learning Services and Academic Success.