

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board recognizes that under the proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. In order to protect both children and animals, the superintendent or designee shall establish guidelines for authorized animals to be on school grounds that address the following issues:

1. The bringing of animals into the classroom must not violate city/state/federal ordinances.
2. Animals allowed in a classroom must be for a specific and appropriate educational purpose.
3. All animals must be in good physical condition and vaccinated against transmittable diseases. Dogs, cats, and ferrets require proof of current rabies vaccination.
4. Special consideration should be given to the effect of animals on allergic children.
5. The effective protection of children may include keeping the animal leashed in an appropriate cage or container and fecal material will be handled in a sanitary manner.
6. Wild or exotic animals are not permitted in classrooms, unless under the control of a professional animal holder.
7. The principal shall be advised of any animals to be housed in the classroom. At the principal's discretion, permission to keep the animal may be denied.

Animals on School Grounds

Children, parents, and staff will be instructed to keep their own animals off the school grounds during school hours. Any animal brought onto school grounds must be leashed. Owners are responsible for the appropriate behavior of their pet and for the cleanup and removal of any animal waste. Owners asked to remove their animal must do so promptly. Otherwise, the appropriate town official will be called and requested to take suitable action. All owners must comply with posted signage. No animals are permitted on the turf field, the track or any playing surfaces.

1st Reading: September 21, 2005

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Amendment First Reading: September 15, 2021