

Animals in District Facilities

Animals are generally prohibited on district property. Companion and comfort animals are generally not allowed.

However, permission may be obtained from the principal before animals are brought into the school for specified educational purposes. Parents of students will be notified in advance of animals being brought into the classroom. Due to allergies or other concerns, parents may request a student be excused from handling or touching any animal. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, arrangements must be made for their care.

Service animals¹ serving staff or students with a disability must be approved by the human resources director before they are allowed in district facilities.

Approved animals must be adequately cared for and appropriately secured. Any unanticipated costs associated with the animal's presence on school property will be the responsibility of the animal's owner (i.e., flea treatments, false alarms, medical bills).

Animals, except those service animals serving persons with a disability, may not be transported on a school bus or in any district vehicles.

The district follows guidelines developed by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) with regards to the inclusion of animals in the K-12 classroom. NSTA supports the decision of science teachers and their school or school district to integrate live animals and dissection in the K-12 classroom.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

¹The American with Disabilities Act definition of "service animal" means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Companion and comfort animals are not considered service animals. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition. The law and its regulations also make an allowance for miniature horses.

[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 659A.400](#)

[OAR 581-053-0010](#)
[OAR 581-053-0230\(9\)\(j\)](#)
[OAR 581-053-0330\(1\)\(q\)](#)

[OAR 581-053-0430\(16\)](#)
[OAR 581-053-0531\(15\)](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2012); 28 CFR §§ 35.104, 35.136 (2017).
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.