
ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL – INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES

The Oxford Academy and Central School District (the District) recognizes that the observation of and experimentation with living organisms and animals gives students unique perspectives of life processes. Animals and animal materials should be used respectfully and for the purpose of meeting the objectives of the respective course or courses being studied.

The District, in recognizing the educational uses of animals in the classroom, requires permission be obtained from the program instructor and building administrator before animals are brought into the District or its classrooms. Students must also present to the classroom instructor written certification that animals brought into the classroom have received up-to-date rabies inoculations and a certificate of veterinarian inspection (CVI). It is the instructor's responsibility to ensure that there is an appropriate educational purpose, related to specific curriculum goals, prior to any animals being brought into or being housed in a classroom.

When bringing animals into the classroom, student safety shall be the priority. Students will be instructed on whether the animal or animals in question pose a risk for biting or scratching or any other type of risk. Similarly, students will be provided instruction in the safe handling of animals beforehand, including the need to wash their hands after handling an animal, and regarding the disease risk that animals can represent.

Prior to an animal being brought into the District or one of its facilities, the program instructor shall ensure that arrangements have been made for the cleaning of cages, enclosures, and/or aquariums, and any other requirements to ensure that the animal or animals will be properly cared for.

When bringing an animal into the District or one of its facilities, animals are not to be transported on school buses, except in cases of animals certified to assist persons with disabilities. Further, nothing in this policy shall in any way be construed as limiting a disabled individual's right to their access to and use of a certified service animal.

Adopted: 7/8/24
