

Policy 650: ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS**I. General Statement of Policy**

The St. Charles Public Schools has adopted an animal policy that strives to minimize animal-related health problems while recognizing the positive educational role animals can have in schools.

II. Procedures and Guidelines

Before an animal is brought to a classroom, the teacher/staff person must request permission from the principal. The building principal is responsible for the banning of animals or plants that pose a threat to the safety or health of the staff or students. Requests for animals that are merely pets and serve no educational purpose may be denied. This policy does not apply to companion animals, which are permitted in the school building. If or when animals are brought to school on a temporary basis (e.g., 'show and tell' events), the event will be held, where possible, outside or in a room with a hard floor (e.g., gym). Cold-blooded animals (fish, reptiles, amphibians) are recommended over warm-blooded, furry or feathered animals. Animals should be brought to school on a limited and temporary basis, unless a permanent setting is established with an educational purpose (Ex. school farm site outside of the building; aquarium/storage that can be effectively maintained).

Animals that are temporarily housed in a school building should be kept in an appropriate habitat and given proper care. The educator assumes responsibility for proper management and care of animals and plants. Animals and plants should be kept away from carpeted areas and return air supply vents in order to minimize the transfer of allergens to the carpeted areas and indoor air of the school. Specific animals or plants may be restricted by the building principal if a concern is expressed by a student, parent, nurse, or other staff member.

Approved on the first reading: October 13, 2014

Approved on the second reading: November 10, 2014

