

**ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOLS POLICY**

To protect students, employees and the general public from any health risks associated with pet-related diseases and to be considerate of individuals with allergies and/or phobias, the Windham Board of Education will require permission from the principal before an animal is brought into the school by anyone. If anyone wishes to bring an animal to school for educational purposes, they will consult with the teacher, who, in turn, will request permission from the principal.

Animals are not to be transported on a school bus. Only the teacher or student(s) designated by the teacher are to handle the animal. The animal's behavior should be controlled at all times. All animals will be adequately housed and cared for. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, arrangements must be made for their care.

Animal visitors should not be allowed in kitchens or cafeterias or supply rooms.

No person will be allowed to bring a pet(s) to work or school on a regular basis.

No dog obedience training programs will be permitted in school buildings.

Exceptions to this policy will be allowed for conditions which serve to accommodate either a student or an employee, such as a seeing-eye dog for an individual with visual impairment, or other animal necessary for a health condition. However, if said accommodation causes any serious health risk to others, arrangements shall be made to reduce the potential risk.

It is the responsibility of the principal or assistant principal to assure a specific and appropriate educational purpose if any animal is housed in a classroom.

First Reading:           September 28, 1996  
Approved:                October 16, 1996