

SUBJECT: ANIMALS IN THE BOCES (INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)

The Board of Education, in recognizing the educational uses of animals in the classroom, requires that permission be obtained from the Building Administrator before animals are brought into the BOCES building or classrooms. It is the Administrator's responsibility to ensure that there is an appropriate educational purpose if any animal is housed in a classroom. Animals are not to be transported on BOCES buses with the exception of animals certified to assist persons with disabilities.

Study and Care of Live Animals

Any BOCES building which cares for or uses animals for study shall ensure that each animal in the BOCES building be afforded the following:

- a) Appropriate quarters;
- b) Sufficient space for the normal behavior and postural requirements of the species;
- c) Proper ventilation, lighting, and temperature control;
- d) Adequate food and clean drinking water; and
- e) Quarters which shall be cleaned on a regular basis and located in an area where undue stress and disturbance are minimized.

Only the teacher or those students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.

It shall be the responsibility of the Administrator or his/her designee to develop a plan of care for those animals housed in BOCES in the event of an emergency BOCES closing or in the event the animals remain in the classroom on days when BOCES is not in session.

Dissection of Animals

Any student expressing a moral or religious objection to the performance or witnessing of the dissection of an animal, either wholly or in part, shall be provided the opportunity to undertake and complete an alternative project approved by the student's teacher; provided, however, that such objection is substantiated in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian. Students who perform alternative projects shall not be penalized.

[Americans with Disabilities Act,](#)
[42 United States Code \(USC\) Section 12101 et. seq.](#)
[Education Law Section 809](#)
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations
(NYCRR) Section 100.2(c) (8)