

Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union  
Middletown Springs Town School District  
Tinmouth Town School District

Ira Town School District  
Poultney Town School District  
Wells Town School District

### Animals in School Policy

Code # E-202

**Policy:** The Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union and its member districts acknowledge that there are times that animals are allowed in schools for beneficial educational experiences. Anyone wishing to bring animals into school must obtain advanced approval from the building Principal.

- Any animal present in the school or on school grounds must be clean, healthy and properly vaccinated so that the risk of their transmitting disease to students and teachers is minimal. Any education with animals should also be used to re-emphasize proper hygiene and hand washing recommendations.
- Special presenters (e.g. VINS) are allowed to bring animals, raptors, etc. into the schools after obtaining advanced approval from the building Principal.
- In the event of an animal bite or scratch procedures for first aid and notification of parents or legal guardians should be followed. In addition, animal bites should be reported to the local health officer in the town where the bite occurred **within 24 hours**, so the biting animal can be observed for any signs of illness.
- No animals should be allowed in food preparation areas at any time. Food handlers should not be responsible for clean-up of animal wastes, and cages and tanks should not be cleaned in food handling areas.
- Animal cages or tanks should be cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis. Students should not be allowed to handle or clean up any form of animal waste (feces, urine, blood, etc.) and wastes should be disposed of in a plastic bag or container with a lid. Anyone who cleans a cage or tank should wash their hands immediately after completing the task.
- Guide, Hearing and Other Service Dogs or law Enforcement Dogs may be allowed in school or on school grounds with proof of current rabies vaccination.
- Children with allergies or those with immune deficiencies may be especially susceptible to diseases transmitted by animals or allergic reactions; therefore, special precautions may be needed to minimize risks. Consultation with the school nurse and the child's parents about precautionary measures is strongly advised.

- To provide for proper care of animals, plans must be made to care for animals during weekends and school vacations. Teachers may not require students to care for class animals.
- To effectively protect students and staff, the Animal Policy must be followed by the entire school community. Parents, teachers, school nurses, and other staff must be reminded of the policy on a regular basis and know of its provisions.
- Schools retain the right to ban animals from school activities such as athletic events.

	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union	6/28/10	None
Ira Town School District	n/a	n/a
Middletown Springs Town School District	6/17/10	Rabies Prevention 7/16/96
Poultney Town School District	6/22/10	
Tinmouth Town School District	5/10/10	None
Wells Town School District	5/12/10	Rabies

2/1/2011