

## POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT	N.E.P.N. CODE
ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS	IMG

### I. POLICY

The Louis Riel School Division recognizes that animals in schools are beneficial for the following purposes:

- Supporting curriculum and educational practices
- As a tool for enriching the learning of students
- As a service and non-service (therapy or companion) animal (refer to Service and Non-Service Animals in School [Protocol](#))

The Louis Riel School Division also recognizes that animals that are brought into the school without Principal authorization leave the animal owner (employee, student, parent/guardian, etc.) at risk as there is no insurance coverage for non-authorized animals.

The Division supports that people requiring the use of service animals have a legal right to do so. In Manitoba, a service animal is defined as “an animal that has been trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability that relates to that person's disability.” [Manitoba Human Rights Code Section 9 \(2\)](#)

### II. GUIDELINES

This policy informs schools of procedures to include live animals in the educational process. It is recognized that animals of many types can have a role in enriching the learning of students. It is also recognized that animals can pose varying levels of risk to the safety and health of students and staff.

School Principals must authorize any animal that comes into the school. Notification to the Superintendent (or designate) will occur when an animal is in the building on a consistent basis. Notice will include:

- the name of the animal's owner and the room number in which it will mainly inhabit
- the type of animal
- the rational/educational purpose of the animal

<b>Adopted:</b>	June 4, 2019	<b>Legal References:</b> <a href="#">Manitoba Human Rights Code Section 9 (2)</a>
<b>Revised:</b>		

### III. PROCEDURES

1. School Principals will approve/disapprove the educational merit of having a live animal in the classroom/school. They must consider:
  - Impact on students, class and learning environment
  - Purpose of having the animal
  - Well-being of the animal
  - Allergies
  - Fears and phobias
  - Animal waste
  - Proven control of the animal – has it been vetted for good behaviour around children
  - The animal’s health
  - Cats/dogs – proof vaccinations
  - Safety precautions when food is being consumed near the animal
  - The regular maintenance of the animal enclosure
  - Which adults will be in care and control of the animal (leashed or kenneled)
  - Only small animals that are easily confined/caged may be kept in the classroom overnight for no longer than 3 night unless otherwise approved. (ex. fish, small mammals)
  - Larger animals are only allowed for day visits
  - Will the presence of an animal cause conflict with other animals already in the school?
  - Prohibited animals include poisonous animals and non-domesticated animals
  
2. Approval of the animal can be withdrawn at any time by the Principal.
  
3. When it is decided that an animal will be allowed in the classroom/school on a one-time basis, the following planning item needs to be considered:
  - Handling of the animal should only be done by the owner.
  
4. When it is decided that an animal will be allowed in the classroom/school on a regular basis, the following planning items need to be considered:
  - Parents of students affected by an animal in the school need to be notified
  - Students and adults need to be educated in the importance of hand washing after handling animals
  - Ill or injured animals need to be removed from the classroom/school to be given proper care
  - Monitor the animal’s behaviour. If an animal exhibits any sign of aggression, it should be removed and not allowed to return.
  - Animal food storage in rigid containers to control pests.
  
5. Service and Non-Service Animals please refer to Service and Non-Service Animals in School [Protocol](#).

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