

Section 7

Animals in the Classroom

Section 7:

Animals in the Classroom

Certain individuals, in particular those with asthma, may be sensitive to animal fur, dander, body fluids, feces and may experience reactions to these allergens. Furthermore, individuals can become sensitized (made allergic) by repeated exposure to allergens. As a result, the Indoor Air Quality Committee has developed the following recommendations:

1. The presence of animals in the classroom shall be limited to Science Labs where necessary for the current curriculum. Use alternatives to animals if possible.
2. If there is intent by the teacher to have animals, it is the teacher's responsibility to:
 - a. Consult the school nurse/health assistant about student allergies or sensitivities (acknowledge data privacy laws).
 - b. Ask parents about potential allergies in a note that students take home or inform during parent-teacher conferences. Remember to verify allergies of any students that are new to the classroom.
 - c. Ensure that the Mounds View Public Schools Animal Care Procedures are being applied. Teachers must clean cages at a minimum of once a week.
 - f. Use gloves to handle feces and dispose of in double bags. The bagged feces should immediately be removed to the outside dumpster.
 - g. Locate the animals away from the ventilation system to avoid circulating allergens.
 - h. Notify all staff that an animal is present in their classroom.
3. If animals are present in any classroom, it is the responsibility of teacher with visiting students to consult the school nurse/health assistant about student allergies or sensitivities (acknowledge data privacy laws)
4. Animals should not be sent home with students.
5. Visiting animals are discouraged.

