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# POLICY 6163.7

## CLASSROOM PETS

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Frequency of Review:

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### 1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 The Board recognizes that students can benefit from the introduction of a domestic animal to the classroom to enhance student learning, and to provide a therapeutic measure.

### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Domestic Animal** is defined as an animal of a species of vertebrates that has been domesticated by humans so as to live and breed in a tame condition and/or depends on humankind for survival.
- 2.2 **Classroom Pets** do not include an animal that is brought in on a temporary basis nor are service animals

### 3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 Classroom pets may be kept for the purpose of contributing to a structured humane educational curriculum if:
  - 3.1.1 It has been established that there are no students or staff who would be adversely affected by animals in the classroom;
  - 3.1.2 The animal is a domesticated animal in a confined habitat or under control and is not permitted to breed;
  - 3.1.3 The animal is not a nocturnal species and has a sleep pattern compatible with the school day;
  - 3.1.4 The animal is capable of living in the classroom overnight without supervision; and
  - 3.1.5 The teacher takes sole responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal.
- 3.2 Animals will be removed from the classroom:
  - 3.2.1 If the animal places the safety of students or staff in jeopardy or becomes a health hazard.
  - 3.2.2 If the animal is an impediment to learning.

### 4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 **The Board of Education** is responsible to ensure compliance with the *School Act*.
- 4.2 The **Superintendent** is responsible to ensure that District policy is upheld and regulations are enforced.

## **5.0 REFERENCES**

- i. Regulation 6163.7 – Classroom Pets
- ii. B.C. SPCA – Statement on Classroom Pets
- iii. National Parks of Canada - Domestic Animal Regulations