

# REGULATION

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Related Entries:** EBH-RA, EBK-RA, ECJ-EA, JPD-RA

**Responsible Office:** Deputy Superintendent for Instruction

### Care of Animals in the Classroom

#### I. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the care and responsibility for animals in the classroom

#### II. PROCEDURES

- A. It is the responsibility of the principal/designee to assure a specific and appropriate educational purpose if any animal is housed in a classroom.
- B. School staff will be responsible for the proper control of animals brought to school for instructional purposes, and the principal will be responsible for insuring the effective protection of students when animals are in the school.
- C. The *Safety Handbook* gives specific guidelines for care of animals and recognition of hazards related to animals housed in a classroom.
- D. Special attention should be given to furred and feathered animals in the classroom in terms of their effect on allergic students. See Regulation JPD-RA: *Health Care for Allergic Children*.
- E. It will be the responsibility of the principal/designee to provide for a plan of care for classroom-housed animals in the event of an emergency school closing which might cause disruption of the routine care of the animals. In each school where these animals are housed, there should be a plan whereby the staff member who visits the school daily during the emergency closing will be aware of the animals' presence and see to their care.

- F. Upon request, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Montgomery County Humane Society will provide information and assistance in implementing and conducting instructional programs dealing with the care, feeding, and handling of animals.

*Regulation History:* New Regulation, May 2, 1988; revised February 9, 1995.