

POLICY 470 ANIMALS ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) recognizes that animals may play an important educational role as they relate to curriculum, core competencies, and social-emotional learning. The Board supports animals being in schools and workplaces for educational purposes, or as certified service or guide dogs, or as therapy dogs if accompanied by a handler, with the understanding that parents and staff have provided informed consent, and the presence of the animal has been approved by school administration.

Visiting animals will be permitted on school grounds in accordance with local municipal bylaws. An animal brought onto the school grounds for a visit must be leashed and under the control of a responsible adult or housed in a suitable, sanitary enclosure appropriate to the size and characteristics of the animal. Visiting animals for show-and-tell, small pets kept in the classroom under the supervision and care of a teacher, or animals used in a demonstration at a school assembly will be welcome, with prior written approval from the principal.

Service animals will be permitted according to the Human Rights Code and the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act. Individuals must ensure that advanced notice is provided to the school.

Venomous animals will not be permitted on School District property.

The Board further recognizes its responsibility to provide clean, safe, and healthy learning environments on all School District properties and school sites. In the event an animal defecates on School District property, the responsible person in control of the animal must immediately remove and dispose of the defecated matter in accordance with School District safe work practices.