

## SUGAR VALLEY RURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

POLICY NUMBER: 810  
SECTION: OPERATIONS  
TITLE: **PRECAUTIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND EXHIBITION OF ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM**  
DATE ADOPTED: DECEMBER 1998  
DATE LAST REVISED: NOVEMBER 2008

### **PRECAUTIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND EXHIBITION OF ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM**

#### PURPOSE

To provide public health guidance to school administrators, teachers, and health care personnel concerning the proper and safe maintenance and exhibition of animals in the classroom.

#### DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

All staff at SVRCS should be cautioned that although it is desirable for youngsters to have experience with animals, the handling of animals under controlled situations is potentially hazardous.

#### GUIDELINES

The following precautions, in conjunction with routine and thorough hand washing after animal contact and the maintenance of a clean habitat environment, should minimize any increased public health risk resulting from the presence of animals in the classroom.

1. Any animal contact by the children should be done only under the most controlled circumstances to prevent injury.
2. Domestic dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies and either leashed, caged, and / or muzzled.
3. Rabbits and rodents should be caged and their habitats kept clean.
4. Fish, turtles, non-poisonous snakes and reptiles should be maintained in appropriate aquariums or terrariums which should always be kept clean. No turtles with a carapace less than four inches in length should be allowed into the classroom, and the children should not have access to the habitat's water.
5. Birds should be caged and not free flying and their cages should be cleaned daily. A psittacosis by a veterinarian before it is allowed into the classroom.