

# School District 50: Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte

**Policy Subject:** ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

**Date Passed:** April 2006

**Date Amended:** NA

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Policy No. 6310

Date Approved: April, 2006

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The Board of Trustees of School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte) believes that animals kept in schools or visiting schools may play a valuable role in student's education. However, the safety of humans and animals must be ensured.

For the purpose of this policy, the term animal is understood to include fish, birds, insects, arachnids, invertebrates, etc.

This policy is not intended to restrict the use of certified assistance animals.

## PROCEDURE

1. Permission of the Principal must be granted prior to any animal being brought into the school.
2. Before granting permission, the Principal shall ensure that the consideration has been given to the following as a minimum:
  - a. possible allergic reactions by students or school staff;
  - b. potential for transporting diseases or body parasites;
  - c. safety of students, staff and animal;
  - d. need for instruction of students and staff in the proper care and handling of the animal;
  - e. educational benefits as applicable to Provincial Learning Outcomes.

3. Staff shall ensure that animals are housed in suitable, sanitary enclosures appropriate to the size of the animal.
4. Animals must be under direct adult supervision and shall not be allowed to roam freely in the school.
5. Staff shall ensure enclosures are kept in a sanitary condition.
6. Animals shall not be left unattended during holiday periods, and, where practicable, staff responsible will make arrangements for their care in other locations.