

Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington State – 2024 Update of the 2003 Edition

References:

- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) [Animal Contact Compendium and Resources](#)
 Appendix 4 Guidelines for Exhibition of Animals in School and Childcare Settings ([page 30 of Animal Contact Compendium](#))
- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) [Compendium of Measures to Prevent Zoonotic Diseases Associated with Non-Traditional Pets Such as Rodents and Other Small Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, Backyard Poultry, and Other Selected Animals](#)
 Appendix F Guidelines for animals in schools, childcare settings, and long-term care and assisted living facilities (pages 55-56 of Non-Traditional Pets Compendium)
- Center for Food Security & Public Health Disinfection [Guidance](#) for cleaning animal areas
[Compendium of Measures to Control Chlamydia psittaci Infection Among Humans \(Psittacosis\) and Pet Birds \(Avian Chlamydiosis\), 2017](#)
- [Schools | Washington State Department of Health](#) Animals, Pest Management, and Pesticides
[Safe Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Schools \(wa.gov\)](#)
[Handwashing to Prevent Illness at School | Washington State Department of Health](#)
[Animal Venue Operator Requirements | Washington State Department of Health](#)
[School Indoor Air Quality Best Management Practices Manual \(wa.gov\)](#)
[Rabies | Washington State Department of Health](#)
[Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease Program | Washington State Department of Health](#)
[WAC 246-366-080: Ventilation](#)
[WAC 246-366-140: Safety](#)
[WAC 246-100-191: Animals—General measures to prevent human disease.](#)
[WAC 246-100-192: Animals in public settings—Measures to prevent human disease.](#)
[WAC 246-100-197: Rabies—Measures to prevent human disease.](#)
[WAC 246-100-201: Psittacosis—Measures to prevent human disease.](#)
[WAC 246-101-420: Notifiable Conditions: Duties – Schools](#)
[Animals in Schools and Daycares | Healthy Pets, Healthy People | CDC](#)
[Service Animals and the Washington Law Against Discrimination-032019.pdf](#)
[Prohibiting Discrimination in Washington Public Schools \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](#) Students and Service Animals

O. Animals in Schools		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/ Recommended Practice	Plan Review	Reason for Change
O 001	Whenever animals are being brought into a school, or when students are being brought to a place where animals are present, a person designated by the school (e.g. the principal, nurse, risk manager, etc.) shall be notified so that planning and preparation can take place prior to student-animal interaction. Animals that are inappropriate for schools (venomous, stray, primates, etc.) or for the intended age group (<5 years old) or health status (immune compromised) should be excluded. Refer to NASPHV Animal Contact Compendium Appendix 4 for animals not recommended.		OSPI and DOH WSSDA Model Policy 2029 and Model Procedures 2029P NASPHV Animal Contact Compendium		
O 001a	NOTE: Animals in the classroom are a common cause of indoor air quality concerns. If adverse IAQ is a concern, remove all animals from the school until the issue is adequately addressed. Animals are also a source of Salmonella, E. coli, and other enteric pathogens.		DOH School IAQ Best Management Practices Manual 10 B, F NASPHV Compendium K12 H&SG Appendix F: Animals in the Classroom		

O. Animals in Schools		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/ Recommended Practice	Review Plan	Reason for Change
O 002	Parents should be notified if any live or dead animal is to be kept in their child's classroom, if there will be animals brought to the school (e.g. petting zoos) or if children will be taking field trips involving animals (e.g. to the fair). Children who have allergies or asthma may react unfavorably to exposure. Feces, urine, fur, feathers, dust, preservatives, and feed may adversely affect indoor air quality (IAQ) if allowed into a classroom. See Section K for guidelines on dead animals and specimens.		OSPI and DOH DOH School IAQ Best Management Practices Manual 10 B, F NASPHV Compendium K12 H&SG Appendix F: Animals in the Classroom		
O 003	Keeping and handling of live animals in classrooms shouldn't be in a designated areas only. Animals should be in appropriate cages or properly restrained at all times and not allowed to roam or fly free (birds are not recommended). Designated areas shall include impervious cleanable surfaces and adequate with spot ventilation directly to the outside of the building. Use proper cleaning and disinfection procedures (see guidance in resources section).	246-366-080	OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium CFSPH Disinfection Guidance for Animal Settings	X	
O 004	Cages should be lockable and should be cleaned daily by staff or supervised and trained secondary students.		OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium Appendix 4		
O 005	Handling of live animals should only be allowed under adult supervision. Sturdy, bite-resistant gloves are recommended whenever live animals are handled. Where animals are present, it is recommended that a "hand-wash" sign be posted.		OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium		
O 006	Hand washing facilities should be provided and readily accessible. Hands should always be washed with soap and warm running water after handling animals, cages, bedding, or anything in the animal's environment .		OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium		
O 007	Animals that are kept in the classroom should be fed appropriate food on a regular basis and be provided with fresh water at all times to help prevent animal illness, disease, or death. School should have veterinary contact information and seek veterinary care for ill animals.		OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium		

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O 008	Heat lamps shall be be secured in such a way as to prevent contact with flammable bedding materials. Electrical connections shall meet the National Electrical Code (NEC). Extension cords are not allowed for permanently installed heat lamps.	51-54/IFC 305.1, 603.9 NFPA 70/NEC	OSPI and DOH		
O 009	Only animals, (including all mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles and amphibians) bred in captivity should be allowed in schools due to the wide variety of diseases that can be carried by "wild- caught " animals, mammals, fish, and reptiles . Animals must have current vaccinations appropriate to the species. Consult the DOH Public Health Veterinarian Local Health Agency for vaccination requirements.	246-100-197	OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium K12 H&SG Appendix F: Animals in the Classroom		
O 010	Fish aquariums and animal cages or terrariums should be cleaned regularly. Used water from aquariums or cleaning cages/terrariums should be disposed of in sinks that are not used for food preparation, or for obtaining water for human consumption, or student handwashing . Always wash hands with soap and water afterward. Aquarium systems cannot result in background noise levels in the classroom exceeding 45 dBA.		OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium Appendix 4 246-366-110		
O 011	Schools shall report all notifiable conditions, including animal bites , to the local health jurisdictions. Any bite, scratch, or other injury to a student from an animal should be assessed and basic first aid provided by school nurse/ school staff person. The student should be referred to their health care provider for follow-up care.	246-101-420			
O 012	Ensure that all classroom animals are properly cared for on weekends, holidays, and breaks. Parent consent -should be obtained to take cages or aquariums home for holiday care. Dead, sick, or diseased animals or filthy (mold, dirt, feces, etc.) cages/aquariums negatively impact degrade the indoor air quality and are not conducive to a healthy classroom environment.		OSPI and DOH DOH DOH School IAQ Best Management Practices Manual 10 B, F NASPHV Compendium K12 H&SG Appendix F: Animals in the Classroom		

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O 013	<u>Due to sanitation concerns and the risk of psittacosis, schools are strongly encouraged to have policies prohibiting P</u> parrots, love birds, parakeets and other 'hook billed' birds, <u>shall be prohibited in public schools as per WAC 246-100-201.</u>	<u>246-100-201(f)</u>	<u>246-100-201 Compendium of Measures to Control Chlamydia psittaci Infection Among Humans (Psittacosis) and Pet Birds (Avian Chlamydiosis), 2017</u>		<u>The WAC does not prohibit Psittacine birds in schools, but they are a public health risk.</u>
O 014	There should always be contact between a teacher/coordinator and the operator of a petting zoo or animal exhibit before the visit occurs to ensure safe and healthy conditions for the students. <u>If the school is hosting a petting zoo, exhibit, or providing animals to be handled by students and/or the public, then they are considered an Animal Venue Operator and must provide signage, hand washing facilities, and other prevention measures as per WAC 246-100-192 etc. They should also follow Petting Zoo guidelines in Appendixes 2 & 3 of the NASPHV Compendium. can be found at: www.doh.wa.gov/chp/ts/Zoo/PettingZooHealthGuide.doc</u>	<u>246-100-192</u>	<u>OSPI and DOH NASPHV Compendium Appendixes 2 & 3</u>		
O 014a	NOTE: Refer to Appendix F <u>Animals in the Classroom, DOH, and CDC</u> for additional recommendations concerning safety and health issues <u>dealing with animals.</u>		<u>K12 H&SG Appendix F: Animals in the Classroom DOH CDC</u>		
O 015	<u>Most r</u> Reptiles (turtles, lizards & snakes), <u>amphibians, small mammals (hedgehogs, guinea pigs, other rodents), and chicks, and ducklings</u> poultry (chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese) <u>can carry salmonella and appear healthy. It is imperative that, w</u> Whenever any animals (<u>reptiles, fish, birds, etc.</u>) are handled, soap and <u>hot-warm running water must be are immediately</u> available for <u>use by</u> students and staff <u>to promptly and thoroughly wash their hands.</u>		<u>OSPI and NASPHV Compendium Appendix 3 DOH</u>		

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O 016	<p>Petting zoos, classroom exhibits, and other animal contacts, both inside and outside of the classroom, must should include hand washing signage, hand washing facilities with soap and warm running water, restrict consumption of all food and drinks in areas where animals are present. Do not allow animals in areas where food and drink are stored or prepared. and Always require adult supervision when children are in animal areas. (www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/PettingZooHealthGuide.doc).</p>		OSPI and DOH CDC NASPHV Compendium Appendix 3		
O 017	<p>Service Animals that comply with state law are allowed in schools. Note: Washington state law currently defines service animal more broadly than federal law under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Titles II and III of the ADA, as of March 2011, only recognize dogs and, in some circumstances, miniature horses as service animals (28 C.F.R. §35.136). In Washington, however, public schools must allow any type of service animal that has been individually trained to perform a specific task related to a person's disability. The only exception is in "food establishments," which limit service animals to dogs, and in some instances, miniature horses (see RCW 49.60.215 and 40.60.218). See Prohibiting Discrimination in Washington Public Schools (ospi.k12.wa.us) Students and Service Animals for details on accommodating service animals.</p>	RCW 49.60.215, 218			
O 018	<p>Therapy Animals. Schools are not required to accommodate therapy animals. If schools choose to use or accommodate therapy animals, they should have board adopted policies and procedures to address what type of training is required and the health and safety concerns in this section and Appendix F: Animals in the Classroom, including preventing injuries, allergy/asthma issues, disease transmission, and exposure to animal wastes, and require proper care of the animals, and handwashing after touching.</p>		DOH & OSPI		