

WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

POLICY: **2163 Revised**

Adopted: **September 8, 2006**

SUBJECT: **Animals on Campus**

Approved by: _____
Larry Swift, Chair, Board of Trustees

Pets on campus

Unless the following conditions are met, pets are prohibited on campus. This restriction binds all WSD employees, students, parents, community members, and persons occupying or visiting leased properties on the WSD campus.

Animals in the Classroom

The presence of animals at school can provide a valuable learning experience for students but they cannot be allowed to endanger student safety or disrupt learning. There must be a clear instructional or therapeutic purpose for keeping an animal in a school classroom. Thus, maintaining an animal in a classroom merely as a classroom pet is forbidden. Any animal brought to school must be caged or leashed with prior permission obtained from the Principal.

Students or staff having allergic reactions to animal fur must be provided a learning and workplace environment free from these allergens. Animals causing allergic reactions in students or staff must be removed from the campus. Animals and their cages must be cleaned and maintained consistently. Animals that demonstrate aggressive tendencies, emit noxious odors, or create unsanitary conditions will not be allowed on campus.

Animals on ESD or charter buses

The ESD does not permit animals to be taken on their vehicles, so parents must arrange transportation for the animal to and from school. For charter buses, permission is subject to contract with the bus provider. Additionally, students accessing local school district transportation are subject to that District's transportation policies.

Service Animals

The use of service animals* are not subject to the restrictions in this policy. Restricting the presence of service animals on campus is subject only to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, its implementing regulations, and pertinent case law decisions.

Liability

The owner or handler of any animal, including a service animal, is responsible for the animal's behavior and shall be liable for all damages suffered by persons who may be bitten or injured, and all damages to public or private property, regardless of the former viciousness of the animal or the owner's knowledge of such viciousness.

Law Enforcement

Animals under the control of a law enforcement officer are excluded from the provisions of this policy.

Grandfather Clause

"Riley", an Airedale Terrier, owned by Sherry Mowatt of the Fort Vancouver Tapestry, will be allowed on WSD's campus. "Riley" is limited to the rooms occupied by the Fort Vancouver Tapestry in the Epperson Building, the parking lot adjacent to the Epperson Building and the grassy area next to the parking lot. The owner is responsible for monitoring and cleaning up after "Riley". The Board of Trustees reserves the right to terminate this clause at any time. This clause automatically terminates at the death of "Riley" or at such time can no longer accompany his owner to WSD.

*American with Disabilities Act definition of service animals: Service animals are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities – such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets.