

## WASHINGTON CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING YOUTH

Policy: 2029

Adopted: December 4, 2020

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SUBJECT: **Animals on Agency Premises**

Approved by:

  
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Nancy Fitta, Chair, Board of Trustees

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Per RCW 72.40.015, one of the primary functions of the Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (Agency) is to manage and direct the supervision of the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD). The Agency is also tasked with providing statewide leadership and support for the coordination of regionally delivered educational services in the full range of communication modalities, for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### **Pets on Agency Premises**

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

### **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. If the instructional program involving the animal is ongoing and the animal will remain at school when school is not in session, appropriate arrangements for the animal's care must be approved in advance.

Health issues (allergies, vaccinated status of the animal) involving students and staff will be addressed before permission is given to allow the animal in school. 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 Educational Service District (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**

With the exception of the "Liability" section herein, this policy does not apply to service animals for the disabled. See Policy 2030 for the Use of Service Animals policy.

**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.

Cross Reference:                    2030 – Use of Service Animals in Schools

Legal References:                    RCW 72.40.015 – Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth-Functions

Adoption Date:                    September 8, 2006

Revised Dates:                    December 4, 2020 (policy number changed from 2163 to 2029)