



Policy on Animals in class

With respect to keeping animals in class and group teaching rooms the GGD (Gemeentelijke Gezondheids Dienst) Hollands Midden- states:

Pets and vermin can spread germs. Viruses and bacteria that are normally restricted to animals can under some circumstances be passed on to humans. Sometimes this is by direct contact (stroking or holding animals) sometimes via insects. Apart from passing on diseases, animals may also cause other problems (for example mosquito bites wasp stings or ticks). Finally many children have allergies to animals.

From the point of view of hygiene it is not desirable for animals to be kept in group or class teaching rooms. The only exception to this is the keeping of fish; provided the water is cleaned adequately. Bear in mind that children with asthma may develop allergic reactions if they come into contact with fish food.

If animals are to be brought into the primary school or after school environment (for a particular activity, ask parents if this could lead to health problems (allergies). This should also be done for visits to petting zoos.

(translation)

As a primary school in the Hollands Midden region we must follow the above guidelines. Therefore the following points must be observed:

- No pets will be kept in the school building - although they could be kept in appropriate cages outside the building
- If animals are to be brought into school for part of a day as part of a planned activity, parents must be asked in writing for permission.
- Where health problems are indicated, careful consideration should be given as to whether the activity should take place.
- When animals are brought into school they should be in appropriate cages.
- All surfaces in the rooms where the animals have been, should be carefully disinfected, and the carpets vacuumed thoroughly to remove all hairs.
- Parents or carers bringing or collecting children, are prohibited from bringing animals into the building.
- All dogs brought into the school playground must be on a lead and must not be left unattended at any time.