



## Live Animals in Classrooms

School classrooms are designed for student comfort and learning. As such, they typically do not conform to the standards set forth in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (National Research Council, 2011). Additionally, the presence of animals such as rodents, dogs, cats, and other vertebrates can expose students to airborne irritants, allergens, and pathogens, as well as injuries from bites.

The California Society for Biomedical Research's experts recommend that animal housing in schools follow the *Guide*, which has standards for animal caging, room temperature, ventilation and humidity, food storage, daily examinations, record keeping, supervision, inspections, and training for those that can enter the housing area and interact with the animals. This would require separate and dedicated rooms with controlled access, and trained caretakers.

Excursions to zoos, exhibits, shelters, farms, diaries, research institutions, nature trails, and aquariums are excellent ways of introducing students to animals and our interactions with them.

### Reference:

National Research Council 2011. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*: Eighth Edition. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/12910>.



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