

CROWLEY ISD ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Board Policy: CLB (Legal) (Local)

Date Effective: October 27, 2003

Date Revised: August 2013

Re: Animals in Classroom

I. Policy

The following administrative guidelines should be followed in respect to animals in the classroom.

- 1.** Due to the rise of reptile-associated salmonellas, reptiles will not be allowed in classrooms. The Center for Disease Control advises against unsupervised handling of reptiles by children under the age of 12.
- 2.** No hamsters, rabbits, monkeys, or sugar gliders are allowed in classrooms.
- 3.** Fish/fish tanks are allowed. Appropriate safety guidelines for handling all classroom animals should be followed.
- 4.** The request for use of therapeutic dogs must be approved by the campus principal and the Chief School Administration Officer. Appropriate safety guidelines for handling all classroom animals should be followed.
- 5.** Service Animals

The Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for Title II (State and local government services) and Title II (public accommodations and commercial facilities) that went into effect March 15, 2011 regarding the use of Service Animals.

Q. Can a student bring a service animal to school?

A. Yes, under the ADA, State and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go. The new regulations require public entities, including K-12 school districts and community college districts, to modify their policies, practices, and/or procedures to allow for the use of service animals by individuals with disabilities, including students, school staff, and visitors.

Q. What is a service animal?

A. Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under

the ADA.

In addition to the provisions about service dogs, the Department's revised ADA regulations have a new, separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. (Miniature horses generally range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds.) Entities covered by the ADA must modify their policies to permit miniature horses where reasonable. The regulations set out four assessment factors to assist entities in determining whether the miniature horses can be accommodated in their facility. The assessment factors are (1) whether the miniature horse is housebroken; (2) whether the miniature horse is under the owner's control; (3) whether the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight; and (4) whether the miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operations of the facility.

Q. What do we do with the "service animal" in the cafeteria?

A. Establishments that sell or prepare food must allow service animals in public areas even if the state or local codes prohibit animals on the premises.

The request for use of therapeutic dogs must be approved by the campus principal and the Chief School Administration Officer. Appropriate safety guidelines for handling all classroom animals should be followed. Please contact the Chief School Administration Officer or District Safety and Security Coordinator with questions or concerns.