

CLASSROOM PET PLEDGE



Classroom pets can be a lot of fun but it is important to remember that animals are a lifelong commitment and responsibility. Use this pledge to determine if a classroom pet is right for you!

Should my classroom decide to have a classroom pet, we pledge to:

Consider all students —

- Allergic or sensitive to any particular species or their food or bedding materials
- Immune compromised, and therefore more susceptible to zoological illnesses

Understand the type of pet—

- Only domestic animals and no wild animals may be kept as pets
- Animal must be diurnal (awake during the day)
- Whenever possible, the pet should be acquired through adoption or other re-homing opportunity

Know the responsibilities—

- Research the animal's species regarding appropriate diet, housing, exercise and socialization
- Ensure that the animal is fed appropriately, handled properly and the habitat is cleaned regularly
- Use logs to track feedings and cleanings
- Seek regular and emergency veterinary care for the animal
- Take the animal home during weekends, holidays and vacations
- Provide continued care for the animal at home in the event that a future student is allergic
- Animals should be housed in a comfortable and quiet area of the classroom
- The heat in the classroom should be kept within an acceptable range during the nighttime
- Classroom pets are not permitted to breed

Think about the alternatives—

- Field trips to a local adoption center, rescue or sanctuary
- School visits from presenters with animals
- Fostering an animal awaiting adoption or symbolically adopt an animal at a shelter



Pledge completed by _____ and their students
on _____