

THERAPY ANIMALS

A therapy animal is an animal that has been trained, evaluated and registered with its handler to provide therapeutic services within a school building. Therapy animals are not “emotional support animals” or “service animals.”

For a therapy animal to be permitted on District property, it must have a handler who is a District staff member, or other person authorized by the Superintendent, who has been appropriately trained to work with the therapy animal, and is capable of caring for and controlling the animal at all times. Further, the handler must receive written permission from the building principal in which the therapy animal will be used. The handler shall assume full responsibility for the therapy animal’s care, behavior, and suitability for interacting with students and others in the school setting.

The use of therapy animals shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Therapy animals must be spayed or neutered.
2. Therapy animals must be treated for, and kept free of fleas, ticks, and other insects and parasites.
3. Therapy animals must be kept cleaned and groomed so as to prevent shedding and dander to the maximum extent possible.
4. Therapy animals must wear proper identification and be controlled by a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the handler can use voice control, signals, or other effective means to control the animal.
5. The handler must have proof from a licensed veterinarian that the therapy animal is in good health and has been immunized against common diseases. Such vaccinations shall be kept current and up to date at all times.
6. The handler must have proof of licensure from an animal licensing authority.
7. The handler must be covered by an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the work of the handler and therapy animal while the two are on District property.

Removal of a Therapy Animals

A therapy animal will be removed from a District building in any of the following situations:

1. The animal is out of control, and the animal's handler does not take effective action to immediately control the animal's behavior;
2. The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by reasonable modifications;
3. The animal is not housebroken;
4. The animal's presence or behavior fundamentally interferes with the functions of the District; or

The District shall not be responsible for the care, assistance, or supervision of a therapy animal.

The District's approval of the use of a therapy animal on District property is subject to periodic review, revision, or revocation.