

Pets in the Classroom...

The dander, saliva, and waste from furry and feathered animals are allergens and can trigger an asthma episode. To avoid exposure to these allergens, consider cold blooded animals for pets.

*There must be clear and understandable rules about the management of pets in the classroom.

- Students must wash hands after handling a pet.
- Disposable gloves should be available for use.
- Faces should not go next to an animal nor should animals be kissed.
- Pets should remain in cages whenever possible, not roam freely about the room.
- Cages need to be located away from ventilation systems and off carpets.
- Cages must be cleaned regularly. (Remember the gloves!)
- Animal waste must be disposed of properly.

*Source: *Managing Asthma Triggers Training Manual; Keeping Students Healthy: Air Quality Issues* from the National Association of School Nurses, Written by Dorothy Reilly, MSN, BSN, CSN and funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000, Page 3-c.