

**Care and Handling of Pets and Animals  
At  
The Early Learning Center  
Everett Community College**

**Animal Restrictions**

1. Animals will be inaccessible to children with pet allergies. Rooms will be cleaned and disinfected before a child with allergies enters the designated area.
2. Animals with a history of biting or other aggressive behaviors must not be on the premises of the childcare center.
3. No animals are allowed in the following areas:
  - Around infants and toddlers
  - Where any child eats, sleeps or actively plays, entrances, or hallways
  - Food preparation areas
  - Children's restrooms
4. Birds of the parrot family (parakeets, cockatiels, etc.) are not allowed around infants and toddlers
5. Reptiles and amphibians must be in an aquarium or other self-contained area except during educational activities involving the reptile. Children five years of age or less must not physically handle reptiles and amphibians.

**Animals on our Premises**

1. Preschool classrooms may have the following animals at times or throughout the school year: fish, tadpoles, salamanders, snails, stick bugs, worms and butterflies.
2. Common health risks associated with these pets: see the attached list.
3. Location of pets and cages: The Purple, Blue and Red Rooms provide homes for natures creatures. Suitable containers are placed where children can observe the animals, but they cannot access the animals without a staff members' assistance.
4. Location of visiting pets and carriers: Visiting pets are only allowed to at the ELC accompanied by a professional handler for educational purpose.  
Everett Community College's policy is: " Based on reasons of health, sanitation and safety, no person shall be permitted to bring into or leave any dog, cat or any other animal or pet in any college building, nor is it permitted to leave any such pet or animal unattended on any college controlled property. This policy does not apply to guide dogs or other trained service animals, as defined by law and consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, providing assistance to persons with disabilities requiring these services. This policy does not apply to animals brought to campus for a specific course assignment, K-9 officers and animals maintained by the college for educational purposes."
5. A staff member assigned to the individual animal is responsible for the care and treatment of the animal at all times, including disasters. Staff responsible for animals: Lead Teachers
6. A complete animal care plan is posted by each animal.
7. Plan to care for pets when our facility is closed: ELC Staff arrange home-stays for classroom pets during periods of closure, or a staff member may arrange regular visits to the Center to care for the animals.
8. Our veterinarian: n/a
9. Who to call in an emergency: ELC Staff member
10. Records on pets:
  - Pets requiring licenses: n/a
  - Where pet records are kept (health, vaccinations, licenses, etc.): n/a
  - In a disaster the pet's emergency supplies and records are kept: n/a

### **Care of Animals**

1. Animals are provided adequate and appropriate food and water.
2. Pet containers and cages are cleaned and disinfected weekly, or as often as needed (immediate cleaning and disinfecting if pet odors are evident).
3. Cages and containers will be cleaned and disinfected in utility areas – not around child play areas or kitchen/food preparation areas.
4. All litter areas will be inaccessible to children (not in kitchens, food preparation areas or restrooms).

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedure**

Staff will either bring the animal to the utility area or place the animal in a temporary cage or container. The area around the pets will be kept clean at all times and disinfected with a bleach and water solution (1 Tbl. bleach per quart of cool water) at least once a day and more often if necessary.

- Staff will wash hands and wear gloves while they clean and disinfect the utility sink and the counter.
- All debris and waste will be discarded in a plastic bag, tied and placed in an outdoor garbage container.
- Animal equipment (container, cage, dishes etc.) will be cleaned using soap and water, rinsed, and disinfected with the bleach solution described above. The equipment will be allowed to air dry before returning the pet to the cage or container unless and the Health Specialist approves alternative method.
- Staff will clean and disinfect the sink, faucet and counter when they are finished.
- Remove gloves and wash hands.
- Return pet to container or cage.
- Wash hands.

### **Child-Animal Interaction**

- Children will complete the curriculum regarding the animals and how to interact gently and appropriately.
- Children will be taken in small groups (3 or 4) and directly supervised by a staff member.
- Only trained animals that tolerate handling will interact with the children.
- Interaction will be stopped with animals showing stress or harmful behaviors.

If children handle, touch, or hold pets the following procedures and rules will be in place:  
Our hand-washing policy regarding pets: Everyone must wash their hands immediately after handling animals.

*Remember: Children and staff will wash their hands in the nearest hand-washing sink after handling pets or touching containers where the animal is located.*

### **For More Information**

If you would like more information about the pets at the center, please contact your child's teacher or the Office.