

## Dogs in classrooms

Dogs are not suitable as classroom pets. However, schools may allow dogs in classrooms to support students with disability or for short-term educational activities for students.

### ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT DOGS

Assistance dogs are trained to assist a person with disability to alleviate the effects of the disability.

Support dogs are trained to support student independence, learning or wellbeing.

The [Assistance animals and support animals at school](#) procedure outlines the measures state schools must take when using assistance or support animals for students.

### DOGS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

Dogs may be used for school activities conducted for scientific purposes. Prior approval from the Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee is required before undertaking these activities.

The [Animals in Queensland state schools](#) procedure outlines the responsibilities and processes for animal use in state schools.

### CLASSROOM VISITS

Whilst dogs are not considered suitable to keep as classroom pets, (other than assistance or support dogs) dogs under supervision may visit classrooms for the duration of a lesson if the activity is approved by the principal.

When dogs visit a classroom, there can only be observation, quiet discussion of their behaviour and/or limited, well-supervised handling.

A separate handler for the dog is required as the classroom teacher cannot supervise students and handle the dog at the same time.

A source of fresh drinking water should be provided and dogs must be protected from stress such as loud noise and the approach of children who are not closely supervised by their teacher.

If the dog shows any signs of stress, it should be removed immediately from the environment.

Some dogs may visit schools as part of a demonstration team (e.g. an AVA [PetPEP](#) school visit) and will not be required to interact with the children. These dogs should have completed an approved training course with the handler who accompanies them. A second person (not the classroom teacher) should also accompany the handler to conduct the lesson so the handler can concentrate on managing the dog.

### DANGEROUS DOGS

Any dog that has been declared menacing, dangerous or restricted under section 89 of the [Animal Management \(Cats and Dogs\) Act 2008 \(Qld\)](#) must not be allowed on school grounds. Local councils keep this information.

### RISK ASSESSMENT AND REDUCTION

Dogs visiting classrooms/schools should have an appropriate temperament and behaviour and hygiene skills (e.g. general obedience and house training).

To reduce the risk of injury and transmission of diseases from dogs to humans, teachers should ensure that students practice appropriate handling and good hygiene.

Effective risk management of curriculum activities, including those involving animals, ensures the health, safety and wellbeing of students, staff and others involved. Refer to [Animal observation and handling](#), [Animal contact guidelines – reducing the risk to human health](#) and [Preventing zoonoses](#) for further information on minimising risks.

### USEFUL LINKS

- [Animal contact guidelines – reducing the risk to human health 2014](#)
- [Animals in Queensland state schools procedure \(state schools\)](#)
- [Assistance animals and support animals at school procedure \(state schools\)](#)
- [Australian Veterinary Association \(PetPEP\)](#)
- [Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment process - Animal observation and handling \(state schools\)](#)
- [Local government directory](#)
- [Managing risks in school curriculum activities procedure \(state schools\)](#)
- [Preventing zoonoses](#)