

**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Pet and Classroom Animal Participation Waiver**

The need for pupils to understand and become familiar with a broad range of animals and living organisms is important to both education and the development of an appreciation of other life forms.

At times during the school year, pupils may encounter various pets brought to school by students, live animals which are part of school-approved educational programs, or live animals maintained in classrooms as a part of various science projects or learning experiences. In some circumstances, pupils may be encouraged to touch, handle, or care for these animals as a part of the educational experience.

While dangerous animals are not permitted in the classroom, any animal may at times bite, scratch, or otherwise react to human contact. Reptiles also require special care to ensure that, after handling, the hands are washed with soap and water to prevent the possibility of illness. While reasonable efforts will be made to prevent any injury or illness which could result from interacting with such animals, the possibility of an incident may still exist.

Some children and adults may be allergic or sensitive to certain types of animals such as cats, dogs and birds and, as a result of such contact, may develop a reaction which could include skin rashes or respiratory distress. This may not be evident until the first time a child handles an animal to which they had not previously been exposed. Where a child is known to have a sensitivity to a specific animal, it is important to let the school know as soon as possible so steps can be taken to minimize the interaction between the child and that specific animal.

By my signature below, I agree to allow my child to participate in hands-on learning activities which may involve handling pets brought to school by staff, vendors or other pupils, live animals brought to the classroom as a part of the learning experience, or live animals which are kept in the classroom as a part of a class project or other educational process. By my signature below, I agree to hold the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, its Board, the individual members thereof, and all District officers, staff, agents, employees and volunteers harmless from any claim of loss or liability for bodily injury, damage to property, or any other loss, claim of any kind or nature, arising out of participation in educational activities involving animals owned by staff, vendors or other pupils as well as live animals owned or authorized by Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District for educational purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent /Guardian Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date