

Classroom Pet Guidelines

Quick Points

- Make sure you have reviewed your species' care sheet and chart
 - Find a virtual copy of these items at [PISD.edu/Holifield](https://pisd.edu/Holifield) on our *Tell Me About the Animals!* page
- Please keep your animal in a climate controlled area (around 72 degrees)
- Please have an appropriate transport vehicle for pickup (animals can not be transported in truck beds. Most species will transport easily in a standard 4 door sedan. Bird caging may require larger transport).
- Please **DO NOT** feed your animal found items **or items not specifically discussed with our staff**. Some items (even those marketed for or widely accepted as eaten by) specific animals are inappropriate for their health.
- Please supervise **all** interactions and out-of-cage activity your HSLC animal may have, especially with your students.
 - HSLC pets can not be sent home with students.
 - Your classroom pet may feel stressed or uncomfortable initially due to having its habitat moved to a new environment.
 - You should allow them at least two days of the "new normal" to adjust after initially bringing them home or to class.
 - Try to build positive experiences with little bits of healthy treats or by interacting in an area where your pet is safe and feels as though they can return to the safety of their cage/home as desired.
 - While they are friendly with humans, they know they haven't met you specifically yet!
 - Most small animals do best when given the choice to come and explore you when they feel comfortable.
 - Always interact with your animal over a surface or on the ground (depending on species) in order to prevent unexpected falls/jumping or injury.
 - Some species are prone to hiding, or chewing on items such as power cords.
 - Remember to be gentle 😊

Should your animal exhibit changes in behavior, weight loss, wheezing, discharge, sores, diarrhea, constipation, decreased or increased appetite, excessive hiding, bloat, increased aggression, dull or ruffled looking fur or feathers, hunched posture, nipping, or any other suspicious behaviors or symptoms, please contact Elisa Caywood - Best (elisa.caywoodbest@pisd.edu) at the HSLC for guidance.