

FAQS, Rules, and Release for PISD Owned Animals from the HSLC

FAQS

What animals are available?

- Please see [Holifield's PISD website under "Teacher Resources"](#)

What do I do for supplies?

- Most relevant supplies are provided with the animal upon pickup from the HSLC. Each species has its own list of supplies that will be provided on [Holifield's PISD website under "Teacher Resources"](#). Some consumable items can be sent through interschool mail upon request.

Can the students touch the animal?

- Recommendations and guidelines on student interaction and handling vary by species. Please refer to the guidelines below and discuss further considerations with HSLC Animal Care staff.

What happens to the animal over break?

- You may choose to provide a safe and appropriate space in your home for this animal over break, or you may bring the animal back to the HSLC for care and boarding over long weekends, holidays, and other school breaks. In some situations, select species may be left on campus over school breaks. Please discuss these exceptions with HSLC Animal Care staff.
- ***Students may not, under any circumstances, take a district owned animal home.***

What do I feed it?

- This information will be provided at pickup and is available on each [species' care sheet](#).
- Do NOT feed the animal items or food that have not been discussed on the species' care sheet or with HSLC Animal Care staff. Doing so may result in animal illness or removal from your classroom.

What do I do if it gets sick?

- If you feel as though a PISD classroom animal is ill or needs medical attention, please consult with HSLC Animal Care staff ASAP.
- Veterinary care for a PISD owned classroom pet is only covered through select veterinary offices, and for select health issues, at HSLC staff's experienced discretion.

I don't like the supplies or enclosure offered by the HSLC; can I buy my own??

- Yes, but please consult with HSLC Animal Care staff prior to buying a different enclosure than the one provided.
 - Staff may already have a different enclosure available that better meets both your and the animal's needs.
 - Failure to consult with HSLC staff on this matter may result in the removal of the PISD animal from your classroom, if the unauthorized enclosure is found to be inappropriate or unsafe.

Rules

for PISD Owned Animals from the HSLC

All district animals and supplies become your responsibility upon checkout.

Animal Care: We will provide you with comprehensive care sheets regarding your specific animal's care needs. You are required to provide any other staff person to whom you entrust your class animal's care with proper care information (via our website: www.pids.edu/holifield.)

Classroom Climate: You may take your classroom animal home over the weekends if you so choose. Please keep in mind your room's climate when considering checking out animals. Buildings will often turn off heating and cooling over the weekends and holidays. Consult your office manager about requesting that climate control be left on in your room on evenings, weekends, and holidays if your animal is present. Consult with HSLC Animal Care staff regarding the climate needs of your species and if additional supplies are available to make taking your animal home during these times more convenient.

Additional Food and Supplies: Please contact the HSLC for kibble and other food items that we regularly provide such as feeder mice, mealworms, frozen roaches, and crickets (when available). Many of these supplies can be sent to your campus through interschool mail.

Select supplies require pickup from the Center and are not available for delivery through interschool mail. Please schedule pickup from the Center for these supplies when they are needed.

Be very careful about feeding any animal found items as these things may have been treated with herbicide or pesticide products.

DO NOT provide your animal any foods that are not discussed in the classroom care sheet or cleared by one of our animal care staff. **Certain brands of exotic pet food and commercially sold treats are poorly formulated and can cause painful, expensive, incurable, and chronic health issues in your pet.**

Boarding: You may contact the Center and arrange boarding for your district animal as needed. ***Again, please remember that the school may turn off the air conditioning or heating in your building over breaks or holidays to conserve energy.*** In the case of forecast freezing weather and winter storms, please take your animal home or return it to the Center, whichever is safest.

Student Supervision: ***Always supervise your student's interactions with your classroom animal.*** If your instructional animal seems stressed (particularly with prolonged interaction), it is best to return him to his home and give him a break so that he may use the restroom, get warm (reptiles), drink, eat, take a nap, etc. This will prevent your animal from getting frustrated and short tempered with you and your students. Please also encourage your students to be quiet in class for your pet, and respectful of his needs and space. Teaching these concepts are great ways to strengthen Social and Emotional Learning amongst your students.

If entrusting any regular feeding, cleaning, watering, or other care duties to your students, please check that they have satisfactorily completed all tasks related to the care of your classroom pet (make full use of provided Care Charts).

Should your animal exhibit changes in behavior, weight loss, wheezing, discharge of any variety, sores, diarrhea, constipation, decreased appetite, excessive hiding behavior, bloating, increased aggression, or any other suspicious behaviors or medically relevant symptoms, please contact Animal Curator Elisa Caywood-Best (elisa.caywoodbest@pisd.edu) or the HSLC at large (469-752-1192, 21193, 21194, or 21197) for guidance and veterinary care.

Release; Please Print and Sign

I, _____, have received the instructional animals listed below as well as the Classroom Pet Guidelines, relevant supplies, and official HSLC care information for each:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I understand that I am responsible for the proper care of the above listed Plano ISD instructional animals (as outlined by the HSLC care sheets provided to me) until that time when they are returned to the Holifield Outdoor Learning Center **by me**. **I will NOT transfer the above listed animals to another teacher for care in the event of my long-term absence without returning them to the Center.** (This allows us to check their health and provide current care information to their next caregiver).

Furthermore, by signing below **I acknowledge that I assume full responsibility for the monitoring of my students' interaction with this educational animal AND agree to report any adverse incidents involving the above animal to the HSLC as soon as possible.**

Finally, I agree:

- **Not** to send my PISD animals home with students at any time and
- To arrange adequate care and boarding for my animals (or return my animals to the Center for such) in the event of inclement weather, a lack of climate control at school, vacation, sick leave, official holidays, and/or long weekends.

Signature of Teacher: _____ Date: _____

HSLC Staff Signature: _____ Date: _____

HSLC Staff Member Printed Name: _____