

CAN WE HAVE ANIMALS AT OUR SCHOOL FAIR?



Live animal visits, such as pony rides, are sometimes requested for Spring and Fall Fairs and other extra-curricular events and activities.

We love to see our students connect with elements of the natural world, however there are inherent risks where animals are involved, which must be addressed.

Pony Rides and Other Animal Events

Service Provider: The rental agreement or contract must be reviewed by the district's Purchasing department and signed by the school principal. The contract must indemnify the school district for all claims arising from the service provider's negligence, acts or omissions in the delivery of the services. This indemnity should be supported by a requirement for the service provider to carry Commercial General Liability (minimum \$5 million limit) with the district named as an Additional Insured. Ensure that such coverage responds to carnival pony rides .

THE SERVICE CONTRACT MUST ENSURE THE PROVIDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Transportation of animals, set-up and take-down at event
- Qualified personnel on site for the duration of the carnival to provide active supervision.
- Participants must receive instruction on appropriate code of conduct around the ponies or other animals
- Supply of safety equipment (e.g. helmets) for all riders, or other animal activity.
- Emergency protocols
- Animals must be in good health and proof of current vaccinations must be provided



Schools have the following responsibilities:

- Require informed consent from parents/guardians, or ensure they remain with their child for the duration of the ride or animal activity.
- If volunteers are used, the school must ensure they are properly trained and can ensure compliance with any set guidelines (e.g., number of students that may be in the animal area at one time, minimum age requirement met, safety gear worn (e.g., helmets, closed-toe shoes, long-sleeved pants, etc.)
- Good hygiene practices in place (e.g., signs advising of hand washing (with soap and water) and a mandatory station set up for that purpose.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure the safety of our students, staff, volunteers and school communities in planning and hosting school events. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact your school principal.