Pets in the Classroom

Any classroom choosing to have a pet must take good care of their pet. All pets or visiting animals must appear to be in good health. Pets or visiting animals have documentation from a vet or an animal shelter to show that the animals are fully immunized (if the animal should be so protected) and that the animal is suitable for contact with children. Teaching staff supervise all interactions between children and animals and instruct children on safe behavior when in close proximity to animals. Teaching staff make sure that any child who is allergic to a type of animal is not exposed to that animal. Reptiles are not allowed as classroom pets because of the risk for salmonella infection. The Center for Disease Control recommends that infants and children under 5 years old avoid contact with the following animals: amphibians (frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders), baby chicks, ducklings, and petting zoos. Teaching staff make sure all children wash their hands after coming into contact with the pet or visiting animal.