



Animal Handling Release Form 2024-2025

Smith Preparatory Academy incorporates classroom pets into its school environment. These classroom critters enhance learning experiences, teach responsibility, and provide comfort and companionship. However, having animals in the classroom also comes with significant responsibilities and potential risks.

No animal at Smith Prep is either venomous or poisonous. The animals at Smith Prep are unique, and they have been carefully selected and chosen to enhance our students' classroom experience. The animals are to be treated kindly and cared for humanely. At no time should a student disrespect any animal by unnecessarily disturbing it or causing it harm in any way. As people created in God's image, we are to rule over all the earth with respect and care, having a concern for the overall well-being of God's creation. Ensuring the safety of both students and animals is paramount. It is crucial to prioritize safety and animal welfare to ensure a positive experience for both the students and the animals.

Whenever possible we want to encourage our students to interact with our animals. This includes looking, touching, and at times holding the creatures. Touching and handling any animal, including those that are domesticated, present certain risks, including but not limited to bites, scratches, and other potential injuries or illnesses. Animals may act unpredictably, and these risks cannot be entirely eliminated. Any student interaction with animals is done on a voluntary basis and under the supervision of a staff member.

Smith Preparatory Academy wants to be sensitive to the questions and possible concerns of our parents and families. This waiver and release are given with the intent to honor our families and students. Please indicate on the reverse side of this page if your student is permitted to participate in the care and enjoyment of our school animals.

Waiver and Release of Liability

I voluntarily choose to allow my child to participate in the handling and care of the animals at Smith Preparatory Academy. I agree to assume all risks associated with this activity, whether known or unknown. I hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND DISCHARGE Smith Preparatory Academy, its employees, volunteers, agents, and any other individuals in this event from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, or causes of action that may arise from my child's participation in this activity.

I have instructed my child to follow all instructions given by Smith Preparatory Academy or its representatives regarding the handling and interaction with the school animals. I understand that failure to comply with these instructions may result in my child's removal from the activity and that I will be responsible for any damages caused by my child's actions.

Acknowledgment and Signature

I have read and fully understand the terms of this release form. By selecting "YES" below, I acknowledge that I am voluntarily allowing my child to participate in this activity of holding and touching the animals at Smith Preparatory Academy, under staff supervision, for the 2024-25 academic school year.

YES, I consent to my child's participation in the care and handling of Smith Prep Animals.

NO, I do not want my child to participate in the care and handling of the animals.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____