Adopting a Classroom Animal

Pledge Form

By adopting this classroom animal, I hereby pledge to:

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

1. Never release or allow this animal to escape into the environment;

(Releasing an animal can be harmful to both the animal and the environment. It may also be illegal to release animals and plants in your state.*)

- 2. Provide and properly care for the animal's essential needs (see animal care sheet on back);
- 3. Share this pledge with anyone wishing to adopt this or another animal.

Date:	
Species being adopted:	
Student (print name):	
Student signature:	
Parent/guardian (print name):	
Parent/guardian signature:	
Teacher (print name):	
Teacher signature:	

*Please check with your state wildlife agency/local natural resource agency, or visit www.iiseagrant.org/speciesregs regarding the regulation for your state.

Adopting a Classroom Animal Care Sheet

To provide the best care for the animal:

- Make sure it is legal by checking with your local wildlife department. Some organisms, especially those available through the Internet, may not be allowed in your state*;
- Make sure the animal will be happy living in your classroom or home before adopting it. (For example, are the needs and behavior of the animal well-matched with student or family health needs and possible allergies, student age and maturity, work schedules, and school policy?);
- Provide food, water, and space of sufficient quantity and quality to support normal growth, exercise, healing, and maintenance of body weight;
- Provide confinement that prevents escape and provides an area free of excess food, fecal waste, or other contaminants that could harm the animal;
- Provide shelter from unfavorable conditions, predators, and injury; and
- $\sqrt{}$ Develop a plan for future care or disposition of the animal if it can no longer be cared for.
 - You may be able to return the animal to the point of purchase or donate it to a pet store, university, or zoo;
 - Find the animal a home with a friend or another classroom (make sure they take this pledge first!); or
 - If you cannot find a new home for your animal and you want to consider euthanasia as an option, consult with a veterinarian.



*www.iiseagrant.org/speciesregs

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