

## Animal Safety Tips

Engaging with animals can be a fun, and often therapeutic experience for many students. Below are some tips for keeping these interactions safe and welcome experience.

### Educate students on their roles in safe animal interactions:

- Recognize signs of fear or aggression and instruct students to give animals space when they see these signs. Some common body language signs to be aware of are:
  - Flattened ears
  - Tucked tails
  - Growling
  - Bared teeth
- Approach animal, allow the animal to come to them, and offer a closed fist for the animal to sniff.
- Do not interrupt animals while they are eating, sleeping, or with their young. Do not pull on any part of their bodies.
- Require handwashing after interacting with animals to prevent the spreading of germs.
- Never allow students to kiss animals

### Instruct the responsible adults of their roles:

- Adults should always supervise interactions between children and animals.
- Ensure there is a safe and designated space for the animals, away from high-traffic areas. Do not allow animals to roam freely around any school space.
- **Ensure all documentation is in place.** Follow the suggestions for risk mitigation on RESIG's Activity Guide.