



PROGRAM:	Schools
EFFECTIVE REGULATION:	<i>Rules and Regulations Governing Schools in the State of Colorado, effective April 14, 2015</i>
INTERPRETIVE MEMO NO.:	16-02
DATE:	September 1, 2016
SUBJECT:	Special Allowance for Animals Prohibited in Section 6.7.4.C

The *Rules and Regulations Governing Schools in the State of Colorado* the (regulations) prohibit live poultry, reptiles and amphibians from classrooms of with children kindergarten age and younger and the communal areas used by these children. These animals are known carriers of infectious agents, including *Salmonella sp.*

Young children are especially susceptible to these infections and suffer more severe consequences than the general population when infected. However, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recognizes that teaching young children about animal life is an important to their development.

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institutions in Colorado aim to educate the public about conservation and instill an appreciation of the natural world through animal and human interactions. Accreditation requires staff training, animal health surveillance and hand hygiene during these interactions. The cleaning and disinfection of surfaces the animals contact during these interactions is an essential component for the control of zoonotic disease transmission.

Therefore, live poultry, reptiles and amphibians from animal ambassador programs administered by actively AZA accredited institutions are allowed within classrooms and in schools with children kindergarten aged and younger as long as surfaces the animals contact are immediately cleaned and disinfected.

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