**PORT ANGELES SCHOOL BOARD TO BAN CLASSROOM PETS**

In Port Angeles, Washington, pets are no longer allowed in school classrooms. There will be no more rabbits, mice, gerbils, or other pets allowed.

The rule change happened because some parents complained that dogs were being brought to school and letting them run in the hallways. Many school board members feel that any animal in the classroom is risky. Children who have asthma or allergies to animals can get sick. Animals can also spread other diseases, such as salmonella, to students.

Parents who want pets to still be allowed in classrooms said that classroom pets give a chance for children who don’t have animals at home to learn the responsibility of caring for pets. Children often take turns bringing the pet home to care for it on weekends. Also, the pets provide a bonding experience for children.

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