

A RESOLUTION

**Proposed
Resolution
20-648**

**See Emergency
D.C. Act 20-274
20 DCStat 3034**

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend section 9 the Animal Control Act of 1979 to clarify that an educational institution is permitted to have animals for educational and instructional purposes.

**Classroom
Animal for
Educational
Purposes
Clarification
Emergency
Declaration
Resolution of
2014**

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2014".

Sec. 2. (a) There is an immediate need to amend section 9(h) of the Animal Control Act of 1979, effective October 18, 1979 (D.C. Law 3-30; D.C. Official Code § 8-1808(h)), to make clear that animals at educational institutions are permitted for educational and instructional purposes.

(b) The Department of Health has previously notified schools across the District that they must remove animals – such as geckos, frogs, toads, tadpoles, and other species historically used for instructional purposes but not specifically cited in section 9 of the Animal Control Act of 1979 – or the District will seize and destroy them.

(c) This interpretation has caused concern among educators and school administrators and potentially disrupts the teaching and learning opportunities for students.

(d) This emergency action will prevent classroom and instructional animals from being removed and ensure that the schools can continue teaching sciences and biology with living creatures that are treated and maintained humanely and safely.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2014 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.