

## Adopting a Classroom Animal

# Pledge Form

**DON'T LET IT LOOSE!**

By adopting this classroom animal, I hereby pledge to:

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 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](http://www.iiseagrant.org/speciesregs) regarding the regulation for your state.

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# Care Sheet

To provide the best care for the animal:

- ✓ Make sure it is legal. 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, student age and maturity, school policy, possible allergies and work schedule?);
- ✓ Provide food, water, and space of sufficient quantity and quality to support normal growth, exercise, healing, or 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
- ✓ 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 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.