

# 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 also 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.

# Adopting a Classroom Animal Care Sheet

To provide the best care for the animal:

- ✓ Make sure it is legal by checking with your local wildlife department. 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 and possible allergies, student age and maturity, work schedules, and school policy?);
- ✓ Provide food, water, and space of sufficient quantity and quality to support normal growth, exercise, healing, and 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 it 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.

\*[www.iiseagrant.org/speciesregs](http://www.iiseagrant.org/speciesregs)