

Adopting a Classroom Animal/Plant Pledge Form

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

By adopting this classroom animal/plant, I hereby pledge to:

- 1. Never release or allow this organism to escape into the environment;**
(Releasing an animal/plant can be harmful to both the organism and the environment. It may also be illegal to release animals and plants in your state.*)
- 2. Provide and properly care for the organism's essential needs (see care sheet on back);**
- 3. Share this pledge with anyone wishing to adopt this or another organism.**

Date: _____

Organism 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 regarding the regulation for your state.

Adopting a Classroom Animal/Plant Care Sheet

To provide the best care for the organism:

- ✓ 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 organism 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 organism;
- ✓ Provide shelter from unfavorable conditions, predators, and injury; and
- ✓ Develop a plan for future care or disposition of the organism if it can no longer be cared for.
 - You may be able to return the animal/plant to the point of purchase or donate it to a pet store, university, or zoo;
 - Find the animal/plant 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 organism and you want to consider euthanasia as an option, consult with a veterinarian.

*www.iiseagrant.org/speciesregs