



St Paul's School

School Dog Risk Assessment

Includes:

Purpose and introduction

Interaction with pupils and staff

Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog

Hygiene/Health

Activities involving the school dog, including walking

Current risk assessment completed: 17th April 2019

Risk assessment to be reviewed: Annually

School Dog Risk Assessment

Purpose

1. Dogs teach children responsibility.

Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.

2. Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!

3. Dogs teach children compassion. Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.

4. Dogs teach children about socialisation. Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended).

5. Dogs are fun. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day.

Many people have studied dogs in attempts to decipher their behaviour, and the theories abound. However, you just have to witness the interactions between dogs and children to realise the potential for greatness. Dogs can sense when children with epilepsy are about to have a seizure, they can sense when a diabetic child's sugar is low, and they can help children with severe physical disabilities find happiness in life. With the proper training and supervision, a dog can enrich a child's life.

Introduction

St Paul's School Dog will live with the Head Teacher Kerenza Palmer and her family. Many schools both mainstream and SEN are introducing a school dog as research has shown that good natured dogs can positively impact on a pupils attendance and behaviour in and out of school. The School dog was chosen based on his temperament and advise from the breeder. A training school will also be involved from the outset to assist Kerenza's family and the school in ensuring the School Dog is handled and treated correctly. As well as providing pupils and their families with the reassurance that they know how to interact with the dog and that he will have a real benefit to the pupils when in school. His Mother and Father are both cockapoos, which means he is a cross between a cocker spaniel and a toy poodle. He will become a member of the Dog's Trust which means he has public liability insurance. This means he is able to come into school. He will regularly visit the vet for check-ups. Whilst he is there they administer worm and flea treatments as well as make adjustments to his food intake to ensure he remains a health weight. In addition to the 5 key reasons for our school dog joining us outlined in the purpose we also believe he will improve the pupils personal and social development and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels. Our School dog will be based in the secondary school and primary school with Kerenza initially and will work with children and adults in line with agreed protocols

School Dog Risk Assessment

Area	Area: Interaction with pupils and staff	Assessment Date:	April 2019
Reason:	To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times	Review Date	April 2020

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School dog biting a child or adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. He will live with 2 children who handle him all the time to ensure that he is used to interaction with children 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way 	•	•	•
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumping up/scratching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that he could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The temperament of the School Dog and the agreed training programme will involve not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful No interaction will be made with any children unless the school has written permission from parents/guardians 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision The school dog will be enclosed in a play pen when people come to interact with him or under lead control by an authorised adult 	•	•	•
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running loose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog was to run loose he could hurt children/adults or damage property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective 	•	•	•

		door), in a play pen or on a lead					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct interaction with children/staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/staff could be scratched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interaction is allowed without authorisation Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour • Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the school dog is approached in the agreed manner 	•	•	•
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of materials 	If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources	The school dog will be contained at all times • The school dog will have his own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective 	•	•	•

Area	Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog	Assessment Date:	April 2019
Reason:	To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times	Review Date	April 2020

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the school dog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child/adult interact with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dogs training and have a negative impact on future interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of rewards/treats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat Children/adult must clean their hands after handling treats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol gel will be available to all adults (and children with written permission from parents). Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminders to the children to wash hands / use alcohol gel after handling treats Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with a puppy/dog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to the school dog or themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dog's Trust will be visiting each year group to conduct a 'Be Dog Smart' course with all of the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Area	Hygiene	Assessment Date:	April 2019
Reason:	To ensure that pupils, staff and the school dog to not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school	Review Date:	April 2020

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worms/fleas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will be treated monthly at a local vets to ensure he is correctly treated for worms and fleas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faeces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child/adult come into contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will only be walked under supervision No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces, this will always be undertaken by the adult in supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children can only be in contact with the school dog once the school has written permission from parents/guardians If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's access to school dog's resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child has access to the school dog's treats/food and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the school dog's resources will be locked away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind children not to enter area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

	eats some they could become unwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact with food preparation areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school He will never enter the school kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trivial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind children and adults to clean their hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Area	Activities involving the school dog, including walking	Assessment Date:	April 2019
Reason:	To ensure the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community	Review Date	April 2020

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking the dog on and off site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog is taken off site normal risk assessed procedure will take place No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by accompanying adult No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when he is on a walk unless permission is given 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visits to classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure he may become over excited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with Ms Palmer The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms and be under the control of the class teacher or teaching assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Being fed	If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating he may respond aggressively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No child will be allowed in the school dog's contained area when he is eating Children may prepare the food for the school dog (washing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when he is eating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

		<p>their hands afterwards)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All feeding will be supervised 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog is overwhelmed he may become aggressive or boisterous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and he will be under the control of a supervising adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the school dog's reaction to school events If the school events are too overwhelming the school dog might not attend school on that day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other dogs (on and off site) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school dog encounters another dog he may become boisterous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises At no time will the school dog be walked by a child and as a result if another dog is seen this will be dealt with by the supervising adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the school dog's reaction when out walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working between sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog may be overexcited by changing sites in the middle of the day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will in the first instance only transfer sites with Ms Palmer The school dog will always have time in designated confined spaces (eg penned area / offices) to settle to the school environment before working with children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the school's dog's approach when transferring schools and react appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Signature		Review date	
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