



Bishopton Primary School

Dogs in School Risk Assessment

Introduction

The value of pet 'Therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and staff and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

The rationale behind this decision was as follows:

- For the school to have animal that is able to live as natural as the school can provide
- For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day
- To have an animal that the children can interact with, and be of benefit to, the children's social and emotional development.

Key:

1 = Low risk

2 = Medium risk

3 = High risk



HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (1,2,3)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Dog getting over excited when interacting with staff and children leading to: Bites, scratches or illness caused by the dog	Staff, pupils, handlers and visitors	2 2	The dog will be in the care of the designated handlers at all times, who are undergoing training and understand risks and how to negate risks • The dog is never left unattended • Pupils will never be left unsupervised with the dog • The dog will always be on a lead when walking around the school • The dog is up to date with their vaccinations, and treatment for worms and fleas • All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with the dog • Handlers clear up dog faeces promptly and dispose of this safely – pupils are told to stay away from the area • Dogs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas • The Head's office will have a sign indicating when the dog is in the Office to inform all staff and pupils.	Handlers



HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (1,2,3)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Allergies	Staff and pupils	2	• Letter sent to all parents/carers requesting information about any allergies • List of children and staff circulate to all members detailing who should NOT interact with the dog • Pupils and staff with have a option to 'opt out' of any interaction with the dog. • Staff should be trained to recognise signs of allergic reactions and protocols in place should a situation arise • Parental permission sought for children to interact with the dog • Any room used for the dog and pupils to interact should be well ventilated • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies	Handlers
Phobias	Staff and pupils	2	• Letter sent to parents/carers requesting information about any phobias towards dogs • Parents/carers and pupils are told about the visit in advance • Contact with the dog is optional • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia	Handlers



HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (1,2,3)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	1	• Handler(s) remain with the dog at all times • Handler(s) speak to school staff in advance and make sure the area and activity is safe • Headteacher will check with the handler(s) and set a limit for the number of pupils who can interact with a dog at one time • Time limit will be set (in consultation with the handler) for how long the dog will be involved in each session. It is advisable to keep this to no more than 30 minutes • Handler(s) clean up urine and faeces using a pet-safe disinfectant • School staff remove pupils who misbehave or upset the dog. The pupils in question will then be reminded about the code of conduct in relation to acceptable behaviour around the dog • Time limit set for activities as recommended by the handler(s), so the dog does not get tired • Any games played with the dog during sessions should be more cognitive based, such as scent games rather than high energy	Handlers



HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (1,2,3)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Pupils misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers	1	• Pupils will receive lessons centred around behaviour around dogs through whole school, class, and PSHEC lessons • Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. • Pupils and staff are required to complete a lesson on interacting safely with the dog. This should include understanding dog body language • Pupils are told in advance what to expect and how to behave • School staff are present at all times during the visit • School staff are ready to remove any pupils who misbehave or upset the dog • If the dog is showing signs of distress, then the dog should be removed immediately	Handlers



HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (1,2,3)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	The dog	1	• Dog to remain on a lead at all times when in a session or being moved around the school site • Dog kept in secured rooms, with closed doors, but well ventilated and not too hot or cold • All school bags/personal items are removed before the dog enters • Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary • Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before the dog visits	Handlers
Protection of the dog	The dog	1	• The dog handler is responsible for the dog ensuring it is physically fit and their psychological welfare and wellbeing is protected and not compromised. • Dog first aid kits will be available • The dog will be monitored for signs of stress and the 'Animal welfare act 2006' will always be adhered to. • The dog will work for a maximum of four hours, this includes session and exercise / relax times. • If at any point the dog's welfare becomes compromised, the sessions will end	Handlers



HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (1,2,3)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Zoonosis Transfer of germs	Staff, Pupils, dogs and handlers	1	• Clean food and water bowls are supplied daily and separately from those used by people • Food and water bowls are not shared with other animals on site • No face-to-face contact • Any cuts/open wounds are covered • If the dog has any cuts/open wounds, they should not be brought into school • The dog should receive regular vet check-ups and preventative treatments as directed • A designated area for toileting will be assigned and this will be disinfected after use. • All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with the dog • Handlers clear up dog faeces promptly and dispose of this safely – pupils are told to stay away from the area	Handlers
Financial cost of the dog		1	• The dog will be insured by the school via public liability • All other cost will be the responsibility of Mrs Charman – through Pet insurance and vet payment plan.	Mrs Charmaan