

School Dog 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 lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

The rationale behind this decision for having a school Dog was as follows:

- For the school to have a pet that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow.
- For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day.
- To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children’s social and emotional development.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with Maddie is invited to write to the Headteacher and inform them of their wishes. Please also see the school Dog Policy which will be regularly reviewed with staff and governors.

Hazard	Risk	Existing level of risk	Controls to reduce the risk	Risk levels after controls
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child knocked to the ground.	Low	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises. Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog. The dog will always be on a lead or carried when she is not in the office.	Low
	Child scratched by dog.	Medium		Low
	Child bitten by dog.	Medium		Low

			<p>Pupils have been and will continue to be taught about positive interactions with dogs. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to the whole school through assemblies and PSHE sessions.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them.</p> <p>The dog has completed basic training.</p> <p>The dog is used to being around people, children and animals as a family pet.</p> <p>The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment, this training will future therapy or reading sessions to involve the school dog can be done in a calming/therapeutic manner.</p>	
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			<p>All staff will have been introduced to the dog and expectations of having a school dog.</p> <p>She will attend the vets regularly to ensure she is in good health and that her claws are kept short.</p> <p>The dog is not allowed near children when they are eating</p>	
The dog gets loose from her crate or lead.	As above	As above	<p>Maddie is only left alone in the Headteacher's office. If she is alone she will have the door shut and the keypad lock on. Staff to check before entering the HT that Maddie is away from the door.</p> <p>Staff will know when Maddie is in school (Maddie Mondays- unless otherwise communicated)</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p>
The dog causing allergies.	Child or staff have allergic reaction	Low	Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies before the introduction of the dog to the school.	Low

			<p>A list of any children/staff who should not interact with the dog will kept on the school SIMs system.</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog</p>	
Children getting germs from the dog.	Children or staff become unwell	low	<p>Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe way.</p> <p>All immunisations are kept up to date and record will be kept of this.</p> <p>Flea and worm treatment is carried out at 6 week intervals. The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall at meal times; and never in the food preparation area.</p>	low

Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.	School unable to afford the ongoing cost of the Betty's day to day upkeep or medical bills.	low	Maddie remains the ultimate responsibility of MRs Moss. Her day to day upkeep will be paid for by her. Public liability insurance will be paid for by the school	low