**Tor View Specialist Learning Community School Dog Risk Assessment**

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| **Purpose** | 1. **Dogs teach children responsibility** – having to remember to feed, water, love and support 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. 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. |
| **Introduction** | Tor View Specialist Learning Community Dog Ruby lives with Ms A Y Holdsworth (Executive Principal) and her family. Ruby is a very caring and well behaved puppy who has the right temperament to become a real asset to Tor View School.  Ruby’s mother is a cocker spaniel and her Father is a toy poodle – making Ruby a Cockerpoo.  Ruby has ‘fully comprehensive’ pet insurance with public liability – meaning she can come into school. Ruby regularly visits the Vet for check ups and has had her vaccinations. The Vet also administers worm and flea treatments as well as advising on food intake to ensure she remains a healthy weight.  In addition to the 5 key reasons outlined above for Ruby joining Tor View School we believe she will improve the children’s abilities socially and emotionally in line with our school ethos. |

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| **Area: Interaction with Pupils/staff/visitors** | | | | | **Assessment Date:** | | |
| **Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times** | | | | | **Review Date:** | | |
| **1 Identify the**  **Hazards** | **2 Who might be harmed/how?** | **3 What are you doing already?** | **Risk Rating** | **4 Is anything further needed?** | **Action Required** | **Responsible**  **Person** | **Date**  **Completed** |
| ▪ School dog biting a child or adult | ▪ Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites | **▪** The school dog is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. | Low | **▪** Ensure that children and adults do not interact with Ruby without adult supervision.  **▪** Ensure that all interaction with Ruby is completed in the agreed way. |  |  |  |
| **▪** Jumping up/scratching | ▪ If the school dog becomes excited there is a risk that she could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark | **▪** Ruby’s temperament and the agreed training programme involves not jumping up with positive reinforcement given when successful.  **▪** No interaction will be made with any children unless the school has written permission from parents/carers | Medium | **▪** Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision.  **▪** The school dog will be under lead control by an authorised adult when people are interacting with her |  |  |  |
| **▪** Running loose | **▪** If the school dog was to run loose she could hurt children/adults or damage property | **▪** She will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the door) or on a lead | Low | **▪** Monitor the equipment used to contain Ruby is appropriate and effective |  |  |  |
| **▪** Direct interaction with children/staff | **▪** If Ruby is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/staff could be scratched | **▪** No interaction is allowed without authorisation  **▪** Interaction will be cancelled if Ruby shows signs of incorrect behaviour  **▪** Positive reinforcement will be given to encourage the desired behaviour | Medium | **▪** Ensure that Ruby is approached in the correct manner |  |  |  |
| **▪** Destruction of materials/property | **▪** The school dog may chew/destruct some school materials/resources | **▪** Ruby will have her own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed. | Low | **▪** Monitor that the equipment provided for Ruby is effective and appropriate. |  |  |  |
| **▪** Children/Visitors to school have a phobia of dogs | **▪** Distress could be caused due to close proximity to Ruby | **▪** Advise visitors of Ruby and remove her if necessary  **▪** Display notices in reception that there is a school dog on site  **▪** Ruby to be supervised at all times and be sensitive to children/adults reactions.  **▪**  Parents to be offered a programme of support for their child to overcome any fears. | Low | **▪** Monitor Ruby’s reactions to visitors. |  |  |  |

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| **Area: Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog** | | | | | **Assessment Date:** | | |
| **Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times.** | | | | | **Review Date:** | | |
| **1 Identify the**  **Hazards** | **2 Who might be harmed/how?** | **3 What are you doing already?** | **Risk Rating** | **4 Is anything further needed?** | **Action Required** | **Responsible**  **Person** | **Date**  **Completed** |
| **▪** Incorrect or inconsistent interaction with Ruby | **▪** If a child/adult interacts with Ruby incorrectly or inconsistently this will affect her training and have a negative impact on future interaction | **▪** Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with Ruby  **▪** There cannot be any interaction with Ruby without authorisation  **▪** Children are requested not to lift or carry Ruby. | Medium | **▪** If there are any inconsistencies in approach the adult/child interaction will have to stop. |  |  |  |
| **▪** Use of rewards/treats and praise | **▪** Children/adults could be harmed if Ruby is over excited when receiving a reward or treat.  **▪** Children must wash their hands after handling dog treats | **▪** Hand washing facilities are available to all children and adults. (children will have written permission from parents)  **▪** Treats will only be given to Ruby with permission | Low | **▪** Reminders to the children to wash their hands after handling any treats  **▪** Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be given with permission |  |  |  |

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| **Area: Hygiene/Health** | | | | | **Assessment Date:** | | |
| **Reason:To ensure that pupils, staff and Ruby do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school** | | | | | **Review Date:** | | |
| **1 Identify the**  **Hazards** | **2 Who might be harmed/how?** | **3 What are you doing already?** | **Risk Rating** | **4 Is anything further needed?** | **Action Required** | **Responsible**  **Person** | **Date**  **Completed** |
| **▪** Worms/Fleas | **▪** If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to people | **▪** Ruby will be treated monthly at the Vets to ensure she is correctly treated for worms/fleas | Low | **▪** Monitor that Vets visits happen promptly and take actions as suggested by the Vet |  |  |  |
| **▪** Faeces | **▪** If a child/adult comes into contact with dog faeces then germs could be transferred | **▪** Ruby will only be walked under supervision  **▪** No child will be asked to pick up any dog faeces – this will always be undertaken by an adult | Low | **▪** If a child finds dog faeces on the school premises they will report it to an adult  **▪** Staff will be vigilant when out in the grounds with Ruby. |  |  |  |
| **▪** Allergies | **▪** If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell | **▪** Children can only be in contact with Ruby once the school has written permission from parents/carers.  **▪** If a child has an allergy Ruby will not carry out tasks near that child | Medium | **▪** Allergic children to be identified |  |  |  |
| **▪** Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog | **▪** If hands are not washed then children/adults could become unwell | **▪** All adults and children will wash their hands after interaction with Ruby | Low | **▪** All adults and children to be reminded to wash their hands after contact |  |  |  |

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| **Area: Activities involving Ruby – including walking** | | | | | **Assessment Date:** | | |
| **Reason: To ensure Ruby has a meaningful and safe impact on the school** | | | | | **Review Date:** | | |
| **1 Identify the**  **Hazards** | **2 Who might be harmed/how?** | **3 What are you doing already?** | **Risk Rating** | **4 Is anything further needed?** | **Action Required** | **Responsible**  **Person** | **Date**  **Completed** |
| **▪** Walking the dog on and off site | **▪** Children might be hurt if they do not interact correctly when Ruby is on a walk | **▪** No children will take the lead when Ruby goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by the accompanying adult  **▪** No children will be allowed to interact with Ruby when she is on a walk unless permission is given | Medium | **▪** Ruby is not to be walked during play and lunchtimes |  |  |  |
| **▪** Visits to classrooms | **▪** If Ruby visits a class and the children do not follow procedure then she may become over excited | **▪** Ruby will initially only make classroom visits with a designated member of staff  **▪** Children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop | Medium | **▪** Careful consideration will be given to when Ruby can visit classrooms and be left to work with the teacher and SSA. |  |  |  |
| **▪** Being Fed | **▪** If a child tries to interact when Ruby is eating she may respond aggressively | **▪** Children will not be allowed to interact with Ruby when she is eating.  **▪** All feeding will be supervised and take place in a quiet place | Low | **▪** Reminders to the children of not to interact with Ruby when she is eating. |  |  |  |
| **▪** School events | **▪** If Ruby is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous | **▪** Ruby will only attend school events if they are appropriate and she will be under the control of her adult. | Low | **▪** Monitor Ruby’s reaction to large crowds and school events.  **▪** If she becomes stressed then remove her from the event on that day. |  |  |  |
| **▪** Other dogs (on and off site) | **▪** If Ruby encounters another dog she may become boisterous | **▪** No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises.  **▪** If another dog is encountered when off site then the supervising adult must hold the lead | Low | **▪** Monitor Ruby’s reactions when out walking |  |  |  |
| **▪** Working between sites | **▪** Ruby may become over excited by changing sites in the middle of the day | **▪** Ruby will always have time in her designated quiet space to settle into the school environment before working with children | Low | **▪** Monitor Ruby’s reactions when moving around the sites and react appropriately. |  |  |  |
| **▪** Fire Alarm | **▪** Ruby may be left in the building in the event of a fire alarm activation | **▪** Ruby has a practised fire alarm procedure and to recognise the fire alarm sound.  **▪** Staff responsible for Ruby at the time of the alarm to ensure she is taken out of the building. | Low | **▪** Ruby to be signed in as a member of staff so Fire Wardens are aware she is on site. |  |  |  |