

Rowdown Primary School Pet Dog Risk Assessment

Purpose and introduction
Interaction with Children and Staff
Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog
Hygiene/Health
Activities involving the School Dog, including Walking

Current Risk Assessments Completed:

15.11.2019

Risk Assessments to be reviewed:

15.11.2020

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. After all, dogs are basically four-legged children who never grow up!

Introduction

The Rowdown School Dog 'Bertie' has been living with Mrs Hartley since 20th July 2019. He was selected for his temperament and ability to learn quickly. Bertie's Mum and Dad are both Pedigree Wire Haired Fox Terriers and he has 'hypoallergenic' fur which is fine for allergy sufferers. Bertie is a member of the Dog's Trust which means he has public liability insurance. This means he is able to come into school. He regularly visits the vet for check-ups and is fully wormed and de-fleaed every month.

School Dog Risk Assessment

Area: Interaction with pupils and staff					Assessment Date: November 2019		
Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times					Review Date: November 2020		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					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 has been trained during September 2019 Not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. All puppies 'mouth' but his training has involved not mouthing on hands or clothing – this will continue. 	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/scratchin g 	<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"> Training during September has involved 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 Training for jumping will continue. 	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 a fenced area or on a lead 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective 			
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 			

School Dog Risk Assessment

Area: Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog					Assessment Date: November 2019		
Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times					Review Date: November 2020		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?		Step 5 Action & Review	
					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"> There are 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 	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"> 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). There is a toilet next door to the room the school dog will be in and children must wash their hands (if they haven't used alcohol gel) Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminders to the children to wash hands after handling treats Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation 			
<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"> Mrs Hartley will speak several times in assembly before Bertie starts at school, and will demonstrate how to interact appropriately with the school dog. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog 			

School Dog Risk Assessment

Area: Hygiene/Health					Assessment Date: November 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: November 2020		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					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 is treated monthly at a local vets to ensure he is correctly treated for worms and fleas 	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"> 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 	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"> Allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If 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 	Medium				
<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 eats some they could become unwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the school dogs resources will be locked away No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's penned area without authorisation 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind children not to enter penned area 			
<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 his pen or on a lead at all times around school He will never enter the school kitchen Enter the school's staffroom 	Trivial				
<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 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind children and adults to clean their hands 			

School Dog Risk Assessment

Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking					Assessment Date: November 2019		
Reason: To ensure the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community					Review Date: November 2020		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					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 No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when he is on a walk unless permission is given 	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"> 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 Mrs Hartley The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop 	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"> Being fed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 penned area at anytime Children may prepare the food for the school dog (washing their hands afterwards) All feeding will be supervised 	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"> 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 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the school dogs 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"> 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 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the school dogs reaction when out walking 			

Signature:

Date:

