

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:4.3.2024

Risk Assessments to be reviewed: 4.3.2025

School Dog Risk Assessment

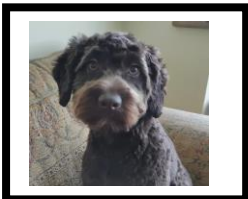
Purpose

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 'Mabel' has been living with Mrs Doe since 1st May 2021. She was selected for her temperament and ability to learn quickly. Mabel's Mum is a working cocker-spaniel and her Dad is a miniature poodle so she has 'hypoallergenic' fur which is fine for allergy sufferers. Mabel is extremely well trained and obedient. Mabel is a member of the Dog's Trust which means she has public liability insurance. This means she is able to come into school. She visits the vet every six months for check-ups and is fully wormed and de-fleaed every month.

School Dog Risk Assessment

Area	Area: Interaction with pupils and staff	Assessment Date:	March 2024
Reason:	To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times	Review Date	March 2025

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
<input type="checkbox"/> School dog biting a child or adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog has been trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. He lives with a child who handles him all the time to ensure that he is used to interaction with children 	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Jumping up/scratching	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision <input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be enclosed in the offices when people come to interact with him or under lead control by an authorised adult <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/> Running loose	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog was to run loose, he could hurt children/adults or damage property	<input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the door), or on a lead	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor that the plan used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of materials	If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources	The school dog will be contained at all times <input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will have his own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Area	Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog	Assessment Date:	March 2024
Reason:	To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times	Review Date	March 2025

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
<input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the school dog	<input type="checkbox"/> If a child/adult interact with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dog and have a negative impact on future interaction	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog <input type="checkbox"/> There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with a dog	<input type="checkbox"/> If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to the school dog or themselves	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs Doe will deliver an assembly to introduce the rules around Mabel being allowed in school	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Area	Hygiene	Assessment Date:	March 2024
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:	March 2025

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
<input type="checkbox"/> Worms/fleas	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans	<input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be treated monthly to ensure she is correctly treated for worms and fleas	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/> Faeces	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> If a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mabel is a cockapoo, which means her fur is hypoallergenic and unlikely to cause any one with fur allergies any issues. However any child identified with dog allergies will not go anywhere near Mabel. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's access to school dog's resource	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 dog's resources will be locked away No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Remind children not to enter area when Mabel is in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact with food preparation areas	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	<input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school she will never enter the school kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Trivial	<input type="checkbox"/> Won't be allowed in food preparation areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	<input type="checkbox"/> If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	<input type="checkbox"/> All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Remind children and adults to clean their hands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Area	Activities involving the school dog, including walking	Assessment Date:	March 2024
Reason:	To ensure the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community	Review Date	March 2025

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
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Walking the dog on site <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children could be harmed during a walk 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"> 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 she is on a walk unless permission is given 	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Visits to classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure she may become over excited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with Mrs Doe The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop 	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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"> The dog will be feed outside school hours. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Children shouldn't be around when the dog is fed. This will be carried out before she arrives at school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> School events	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous	<input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and she will be under the control of a supervising adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor the school dog's reaction to school events <input type="checkbox"/> If the school events are too overwhelming the school dog might not attend school on that day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other dogs (on and off site)	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog encounters another dog she may become boisterous	<input type="checkbox"/> No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises <input type="checkbox"/> The children will not leave the school premise whilst walking with the dog.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor the school dog's reaction when out walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature		Review date	
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