



Twynning School

Reading Dog in School Policy

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Reviewed By:	School Business Manager
Governor Committee:	Finance, Premises and Staffing

Purpose

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.

Dogs are non-judgemental. Children enjoy sitting and reading to a dog – they will always be successful!

Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!

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.

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).

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 humans to realise the potential for greatness.

Dogs aid human wellbeing.

Introduction

Peggy has lived with Miss Gladstone since 2016 - she is a Golden Retriever. She was rehomed after being used for breeding. Peggy is very much a family dog and has the right temperament to work with a wide range of children and adults within the school environment. Peggy is a very caring and well behaved dog. She is very quiet in nature and is not boisterous or energetic.

Peggy is fully insured including public liability insurance and regularly visits the vet for check-ups. Whilst she is there, they administer worm and flea treatments as well as carry out an overall health check. Peggy is also fully vaccinated up-to-date.



Guidelines to interaction with School Dogs

Under no circumstances will children have close interaction with the school dog unless the school has permission from parents/carers.

Once permission has been given no child shall be forced into interaction with the school dog if this makes them feel unhappy in anyway.

At all times interaction with the school dog must be controlled and safe for adults, children and the school dog himself. If the following guidelines are not followed interaction with the school dog will be cancelled.

At all times of interaction there must be an authorised adult who takes the leading role when interacting with the school dog. If children, or visiting adults, do not abide by the guidance given by the authorised adult the interaction will be cancelled.

The following guidelines must be followed when interacting with the school dog. These guidelines apply to all adults and children. (These are suggested guidelines)

- Never enter the school dog's area without an authorised adult
- If the door to the school dog's area is shut make sure you knock and wait for the authorised adult to let you in, never let yourself in on your own.
- The school dog will remain on a lead at all times whilst moving around the setting
- There must be an authorised adult present during all interaction
- Always approach the school dog calmly (voice and movement)
- Always approach the school dog slowly
- Never run up to the school dog
- To start interaction the back of a hand will be offered for the school dog to sniff
- Keep noise levels low during interaction with the school dog
- All interaction must remain calm with the authorised adult staying in control at all times
- Only an authorised adult can move any of the school dog's resources, including food and treats
- Visiting children and adults can only handle equipment if an authorising adult gives permission
- Whilst the school dog is new to the school no visiting adult or children will give him any food/treats
- There must not be any interaction with the school dog whilst he is eating

- After all interaction with the school dog hands must be washed with soap and water/hand gel

As the school dog becomes more established there will be times when interaction will take place outside. On these occasions the following guidelines apply in addition to the guidelines outlined above.

- No children will ever be asked to pick up faeces
- If walking the school dog, an authorised adult must be present at all times. Children may hold the school dog's lead if they are confident to do so. The authorised adult remains in charge of the situation at all times and will take back the school dog's lead if necessary.

The following risk assessments outline strategies and expectations regarding

- Interaction with pupils and staff
- Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog
- Health and hygiene
- Activities involving the school dog, including walking.

Area: Interaction with pupils and staff					Assessment Date: Feb 2022		
Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times					Review Date: March 2024		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk rating Trivial/low/ medium/ High/stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action and review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
School dog biting a child or adult	- Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites	Peggy is regularly handled by children at home and has never shown any signs of aggression. Her breed is very placid.	Low	- 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			
Jumping up/scratching	- 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	- Peggy is not a boisterous dog so does not usually jump up. - No interaction will be made with any children unless the school has	Medium	- Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision - The school dog will be enclosed in a play pen			

		permission from parents/guardians		when people come to interact with him or under lead control by an authorised adult			
Running loose	- If the school dog was to run loose he could hurt children/adults or damage property	- The school dog is always monitored by an adult	Low	- Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective			
Destruction of materials	- If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resource	- The school dog will have his own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed	Low	- Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective			

Area: Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog					Assessment Date: Feb 2022		
Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times					Review Date: March 2024		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk rating Trivial/low/ medium/ High/stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action and review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
Incorrect/ inconsistent interaction with the school dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a child/adult interact with the school dog in a negative way, it may feel threatened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - Peggy is very placid and used to lots of different people handling her. 	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 			
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 	<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 - Peggy is already trained to receive treats very gently 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminders to the children to wash hands / use alcohol gel after handling treats - Treats to be shut away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation 			

	treats						
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"> - Regular assemblies will be held at the beginning to introduce Peggy to the children. She will always be available for parents to meet should they want to. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog 			

Area: Health and hygiene					Assessment Date: Feb 2022		
Reason: To ensure that pupils, staff and the school dog do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school					Review Date: March 2024		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk rating Trivial/low/ medium/ High/stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action and review		
					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 humans	- The school dog will be treated regularly at a local vets to ensure she is correctly treated for worms and fleas	Low	- Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet			
Faeces	- If a child/adult come into contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred	- The adult taking the dog outside for the toilet will always carry dog bags and will dispose of it responsibly. - 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	- If a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult			

Access to school dog's resources	No access to the school dog's treats/food and eats some they could become unwell	- No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation					
Contact with food preparation areas	- If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	- 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	Trivial				
Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	- If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	- All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog	Low	- Remind children and adults to clean their hands			
Allergies	- If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell	- 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				

Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking					Assessment Date: Feb 2022		
Reason: To ensure the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community					Review Date: March 2024		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk rating Trivial/low/ medium/ High/stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action and review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
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 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 	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 			
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 she may become over excited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with Mrs Halling - 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 partner 			
Being fed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a child tries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No child will be allowed in 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminders to the 			

	to interact when the school dog is eating she may respond aggressively	<p>the school dog's contained area when she is eating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children may prepare the food for the school dog (washing their hands afterwards) - All feeding will be supervised 		children feeding the school dog to not interact when she is eating			
School events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and she 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 			
Other dogs (on and off site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the school dog encounters another dog she 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 			