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| RISK ASSESSMENT | Activity/Area – Therapy Dog in school | |  |
| **Assessment completed by:** | **Date Completed:** |  |
| **PRINT NAME:** | **Next Review Date Due:** |  |

| **Hazard / Risk** | **Who is at Risk?** | **How can the hazards cause harm?** | **Normal Control Measures** | **Are Normal Control Measures** *Y/N/NA* | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **In Place** | **Adequate** |
| Dog getting over excited when interacting with children | Staff  Pupils  Visitors  Dog | Child knocked to ground Child scratched by dog  Child bitten by  dog | * The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises and grounds. * Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. * The dog will always be on a lead when in school. * The dog will be trained to and discouraged from jumping up or licking the children. * The dog will undergo training or will have already been conditioned to deal with the school environment; this area of training will allow future reading and nurture intervention to involve the dog in a calm/therapeutic manner. * Children have been and will continue to be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to the children and often to the whole school during assemblies, form time and PSHE lessons. * Children will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing, licking or jumping up. * Children will be informed of/taught the correct way to treat an animal to safeguard the health and well-being of the dog. * All staff, visiting volunteers and children will be introduced gently to the dog. * The dog will attend the vets’ regularly to make sure claws are kept short and general good health is maintained. |  |  |
| The dog gets loose from his lead | Staff  Pupils  Visitors  Dog | Child knocked to ground Child scratched by dog  Child bitten by  dog | * The dog area is big enough for him to be happy and safe during the school day and the children are taught not to tease him. * If the dog gets loose the teacher on duty or handler will call for assistance or arrange for the dog to be put back on a leash. * There are nominated members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog requiring attention at any time, they are: insert names |  |  |
| Dog hair causing allergies | Anyone with allergies | Allergic reaction | * Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies or issues prior to the introduction of the dog to the school. * A list of any children who should not/cannot interact with the dog will be kept on the school recording system (Insert name) * Children will have the choice to interact with the dog if they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out. * Dog will be groomed weekly. * Children will be taught and reminded to wash their hands after active participation with the dog |  |  |
| Children getting germs from the dog | Staff  Pupils  Visitors | Children/adults will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs | * Should the dog mess on the school premises a member of staff or the handler will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. All areas where this may occur should be disinfected with an appropriate chemical. The dog will be trained to toilet prior to the visit or in a nearby area that children cannot access. * Poo bags to be carried by adult supervising dog. * All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date and the handler will keep a register of this. * Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals. * Worming treatment is carried out at 6 monthly intervals. * The dog will not be able to enter the school dining hall at mealtimes; he will never be allowed to enter the kitchen and food prep area. |  |  |
| Claim is made against the school regarding an action/behaviour of the dog | School | School not adequately covered | * Pet Insurance – Certificate on site and renewed annually |  |  |

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| **Additional Control Measures**  *(to take account of local/individual circumstances including changes such as working practices, equipment, staffing levels).* | **Action by Whom**  *(list the name of the person/people who have been designated to conduct actions)* | **Action by When**  *(set timescales for the completion of the actions – remember to prioritise them)* | **Action Completed**  *(record the actual date of completion for each action listed)* | **Residual Risk Rating** |
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| **Reviewed by:**  **Signature:** | **COMMENTS:**  *Record any comments reviewer wishes to make. Including recommendations for future reviews.* | | | |
| **PRINT NAME:** |

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| **RESIDUAL RISK RATING** | **ACTION REQUIRED** |
| **VERY HIGH (VH) Strong likelihood of fatality / serious injury occurring** | **The activity must not take place at all.**  You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating. |
| **HIGH (H) Possibility of fatality/serious injury occurring** | You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating.  Seek further advice, e.g. from your H&S Consultant |
| **MEDIUM (M) Possibility of significant injury or over 7 day absence occurring** | If it is not possible to lower risk further, you will need to consider the risk against the benefit. Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely. |
| **LOW (L) Possibility of minor injury only** | No further action required. |

NOTES

The value of animal ‘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. To have a pet that children could interact with could also be of benefit to their social and emotional development.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits which is why we are looking at introducing a pet time during reading and quiet time sessions to hopefully inspire and nurture our children’s attitudes to learning. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with our visiting dog is invited to speak, email or write to Insert name of their wishes.

The school risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the impact of a visiting school dog will be evaluated by the school senior leadership team.

To minimise the risk to children in school, animals are not generally allowed on school premises. The definition of animals includes all pets including guinea pigs, rabbits, insects, fish and birds. The only exceptions to this rule are assistant animals (dogs for the blind etc.) and visiting animals that play a part in informative education assemblies or visits i.e. Night Owls, Dog’s Trust etc. When guide dogs and visiting animals are allowed on school premises, the animal’s owners/handlers must ensure that their animal is not a nuisance and that it does not interfere with the school environment. If any parent or pupil objects to the animal’s presence then arrangements must be made to ensure that this animal is kept away from them. If necessary, the animal may need exclusion from specific areas.

It is a requirement of all our visiting animals that they are within the following recommended guidelines:

* All animals are of a suitable temperament and used to children and/or a school environment.
* All animals should be regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
* Animals that are ill should be diagnosed and treated by a vet and should not be allowed in the school premises until their health is restored.
* All animals should have received relevant inoculations. Proof of this and a good bill of Health from a registered Veterinarian may be required.
* All animals should be wormed regularly every six months.
* Claws should be kept trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches.
* Animals should have been exercised before being allowed to work with children.
* All animals should have their coats cleaned regularly and are of an acceptable hygienic standard i.e. not wet/muddy/smelly.
* Animals are physically fit before visiting the school environment.
* Animals are kept on a lead/leash throughout the visit.
* Handlers remain with their animals at all times.
* Animals are discouraged from jumping, scratching and licking.
* Natural relief for animals is taken into account prior to visiting.