



Guidance/risk assessment for school dog

Purpose of the school dog

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**. With the proper training and supervision, a dog can **enrich** a child's life. The key reasons we are introducing a dog to school are:

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. 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.

About the school dog

Our school dog is a female fox red Labrador called **Wanda**. Wanda will live with the headteacher, Ross Silcock, and his family. Wanda is from a breeder which is a member of the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme. This is a scheme which promotes good breeding practice (www.thekennelclub.org.uk). The Labrador is the most popular of all pedigree breeds and their popularity comes from their versatility as family companion, service dog and guide dog.

Wanda will regularly visit the vet for check-ups. Whilst she is there they will administer worm and flea treatments as well as make adjustments to her food intake to ensure she remains a health weight.

Wanda will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. When this training is completed Wanda will be able to interact with children and adults. For children this will only be if parents/carers have given permission to do so.

In addition to the 5 key reasons for Wanda joining us outlined in the purpose, we also believe she will improve the children's understanding of our values and learning dispositions, and help to improve and secure higher levels of attendance and punctuality.

Hazard	Impact	Action	Risk	Additional actions	Responsibility	Date completed
Dog biting a child or adult.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. The dog 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will be trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Before starting school the dog will have had experience of being handled, including by children. Interaction with the dog is voluntary. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. When children and adults interact with the dog a lead/harness or playpen will be used. 		
Dog jumping up/scratching a child or adult.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. The dog will be trained not to jump up/scratch. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Before starting school the dog will have had experience of being handled, including by children. Interaction with the school dog is voluntary. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. When children and adults interact with the dog a lead/harness or playpen will be used. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Dog running loose.	Child or adult could be hurt and/or school property could be damaged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will be contained at all times, either on a lead/harness or in a playpen. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly monitor that the equipment used to contain the dog is appropriate and effective e.g. the dog will outgrow both its lead/harness and playpen. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Dog interacting with children and adults.	Child or adult could be hurt if the dog is not in the right frame of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. The dog will be trained not to 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bite or jump up/scratch. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Before starting school the dog will have had experience of being handled, including by children. Interaction with the school dog is voluntary. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. When children and adults interact with the dog a lead/harness or playpen will be used. Interaction with the dog will be stopped if the dog is behaving incorrectly. 		
Dog damages school materials/property.	School materials/property will be damaged if chewed by dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will be contained at all times, either on a lead/harness or in a playpen. The dog will have its own toys to play with including toys specifically for chewing. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly monitor that the equipment used to contain the dog is appropriate and effective e.g. the dog will outgrow both its lead/harness and playpen, and its toys will become worn out and need replacing. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the dog.	Child or adult could be hurt and/or school property could be damaged. It could negatively impact on future interactions with the dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with the dog will be stopped if the children or adults behave incorrectly or inconsistently. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Use of rewards/treats for the dog.	Child or adult could be hurt if the dog becomes over excited when getting a reward/treat. Child or adult will need to use their hands to give the dog a reward/treat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewards/treats to be stored in a locked cupboard so that they can only be used following authorisation. Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following interaction with the dog children or adults will need to clean their hands using alcohol gel/hand sanitiser. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. Children and adults will be reminded to clean their hands using alcohol gel hand sanitiser following interaction with the dog, including using rewards/treats. 		
Understanding of how to interact with a dog.	Child or adult and/or the dog could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before interacting with the dog children and adults will complete a 'Be Dog Smart' workshop led by the Dogs Trust (www.dogstrust.org.uk). 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an agreed way to interact with the dog. 	Ross Silcock The Dogs Trust	Ongoing
Phobia of a dog.	Child or adult could become distressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and adults will be informed in advance when the dog will be in school. Interaction with the school dog is voluntary. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter sent to parents/carers during autumn 2 term 2019. 	Ross Silcock	Completed
Fleas/worms	If the dog is not regularly treated for fleas/worms there is a possibility that these will be passed to children and adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will regularly visit the vet for check-ups, this will include worm and flea treatments. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to all recommendations made by the vet. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Faeces	Child or adult exposed to dog's faeces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will only be walked under supervision. No child will be asked to pick up dog faeces, this will only be undertaken by a supervising adult. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the unlikely event that a child finds faeces on the school premises this will be reported to an adult. 	School staff	Ongoing
Allergies	Child or adult have an allergic reaction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will only interact with the 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter sent to parents/carers during 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing

		<p>dog if parents/carers have given permission to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child or adult is allergic to the dog activities with the dog will not be in the immediate vicinity. 		<p>autumn 2 term 2019. No allergies reported to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further letter to be sent to parents/carers and guidance/risk assessment to be shared in autumn 2 term 2019. 		
Accessibility to dog's resources.	If a child accesses the dog's food/treats they could become unwell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the dog's food/treats will be stored in a locked cupboard. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All food/treats to be stored in a locked cupboard so that they can only be used following authorisation. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Contact with food preparation area.	If the dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will be contained at all times, either on a lead/harness or in a playpen. The dog will not enter the kitchen or food science classroom. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All school staff to be made aware of this. 	School staff	Ongoing
Cleaning hands following interaction with the dog.	Child or adult could become unwell if hands not cleaned following interaction with dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and adults will be reminded to clean their hands using alcohol gel hand sanitiser following interaction with the dog. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Remind children and adults to clean their hands using alcohol gel hand sanitiser following interaction with the dog. 	School staff	Ongoing
Walking the dog on and off site.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No child will be allowed to walk the dog off site. If the dog is taken off site by an adult standard risk assessment procedures will be adhered to. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given to the frequency and length of time the dog is walked around the school. The dog will not be walked around the 	School staff	Ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No child will be allowed to walk the dog on site unless authorised to do so by a supervising adult. No child will be allowed to interact with the dog when it is walking on site unless permission is given by a supervising adult. 		school during play time and lunch time.		
Visit to a classroom.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will only visit a classroom with Mr. Silcock. Children will follow the agreed procedures for interaction with the dog or the classroom visit will be stopped. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given to the frequency and length of time the dog visits a classroom. Staff will be notified in advance of all visits to a classroom. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Feeding the dog.	Child could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will eat in a contained space e.g. a crate or playpen. No child will be allowed to interact with the dog when it is eating. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers will need to give additional permissions for a child to prepare food for the dog. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Attendance at school events.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will only attend a school event if appropriate and will be supervised by Mr. Silcock. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given to the frequency and length of time the dog attends a school event. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing
Other dogs/animals on site.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other dogs will be allowed on site. The dog will be contained at all times, either on a lead/harness or in a playpen. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given when allowing other animals to be on site. 	Ross Silcock	Ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If other animals are on site activities with the dog will not be in the immediate vicinity.				
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