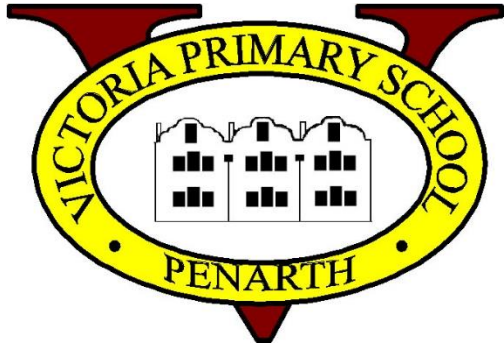




School Dog Risk Assessment

Current Risk Assessments

Completed:

30.01.22

Includes:

- Purpose and introduction
- Interaction with pupils and staff
- Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog
- Hygiene/Health
- Activities involving the school dog, including walking

Risk Assessments to be Reviewed:

**January 2023 (or sooner if
required)**

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

Victoria's school dog Monty has been living with Mrs Daniels since February 2020 when he was just a 10 week old puppy. Monty is a family dog. He has attended dog training and obedience classes. He is always with family when he is not at work, and so Monty is very used to being with lots of different children. Monty is a very caring and well behaved dog who has the right temperament to become a real asset to Victoria Primary School. Monty's mother is a Cockapoo and his father is a Poodle.

Monty is a trained therapy dog which means he is able to come into school. Monty regularly visits the vet for check-ups and yearly vaccinations. They also ensure he has the correct worm and flea treatments.

In addition to the 5 key reasons for Monty joining us outlined in the purpose, we also believe he will improve the children's wellbeing and take our attendance levels to new highs.

School Dog Risk Assessment

Area: Interaction with pupils and staff					Assessment Date: January 2022		
Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times					Review Date: January 2023		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & 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	The school dog has been trained since January 2022. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger.	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	- Training has involved not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful. More likely to jump up at known adults, no cases of jumping at children. - No interaction will be made with any children if parents have informed the school that they are not happy.	Low	- Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision - The school dog will be supervised 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 will be supervised at all times, but sometimes allowed to roam around the front area of the school. When taken for a walk the school dog will always be on a lead, risk will be assessed on each occasion	Low	Monitor the school dog's interaction with the new level of freedom.			
Direct interaction with children/staff	If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/staff could be scratched	- 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	Low	Ensure that the school dog is approached in the agreed manner			

Area: Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog					Assessment Date: January 2022		
Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times					Review Date: January 2023		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating Trivial/ low / medium / high /stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with the school dog	If a child/adult interacts with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dog training and have a negative impact on future interaction	- 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	Low	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped			
Use of rewards/treats	- 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	- Treats to be taken from the flat palm of the hand - Alcohol gel will be available to all adults and children. - Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation	Low	- Reminders to the children to wash hands after handling treats - Treats to be stored away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation			
Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with a dog	If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to the school dog or themselves	- Children are regularly reminded by the responsible adult. - Whole school assembly to discuss appropriate behaviour around school dog.	Low	There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog			

Area: Hygiene/Health					Assessment Date: January 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: January 2023		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & 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 is given worm and flea treatments every month. The vet ensures 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 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 playground they will report it to an adult			
Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell	If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child	Medium	All pupils to complete consent form. Allergies checked against SIMS register.			
Children's access to school dog's resource	If a child has access to the school dog's treats/food and eats some they could become unwell	- All of the school dogs resources will be stored away safely - No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation	Low	Remind children not to enter the lodge without permission			
Contact with food preparation areas	If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	- The school dog will never enter the school kitchen/canteen - The school dog will not enter classrooms during lunchtime.	Low				
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			

Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking					Assessment Date: January 2022		
Reason: To ensure the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community					Review Date: January 2023		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating Trivial/ low / medium/ high /stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
Walking the dog on and offsite	- 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	- If the school dog is taken off site normal risk assessed procedure will take place - Children will use the additional 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	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	If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure she may become over excited or withdrawn	- The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with Mrs Brown or Mrs Daniels - The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop	Medium	Careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms and only when agreed with the class teacher			
Being fed	If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating he may respond negatively	- Children may prepare the food for the school dog (washing their hands afterwards) - All feeding will be supervised	Low	Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when he is eating			
School events	If the school dog is overwhelmed he may show negative or boisterous behaviour	The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and he will be under the control of Mrs Daniels or Mrs Brown	Medium	- 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)	If the school dog encounters another dog he may become withdrawn or show	- No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises - At no time will the school	Low	Monitor the school dogs reaction when out walking			

	negative behaviour	dog be walked by a child and as a result if another dog is seen this will be dealt with by the supervising adult					
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Signature:	Review Date: 30.1.2023 unless necessary before this date.
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