



**Orchard Park
High School**

School Dog Guidance

Includes:

Purpose and introduction

Interaction with students and staff

Students and staff interaction with the school dog

Hygiene/health

Activities involving the school dog, including walking

Guide to be reviewed: November 2023

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 always 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 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.

Introduction

Our first dog is Paddy. Paddy is a cocker spaniel and is just 2 years old! He belongs to Ms Rogers.

Next we have Betty. Betty is a little older at 5 and is also a cocker spaniel. Her owner is Miss Goodwin.

Area: Interaction with students and staff

Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Risk Rating | Step 4 |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Identify the hazards | Who might be harmed and how? | What are you already doing | Trivial / low / medium/ high / stop | Is anything further needed? |
| School dog biting a child or adult | Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites | The school dog is trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. The school dog lives with its owner who handles her all the time to ensure that she is used to interact with children. | Low | Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. Ensure that all interaction the school dog is completed in the agreed way. |
| Jumping up / scratching | If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that she could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark | The temperament of the dog and the agreed training programme has involved not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful. A letter was sent home asking parents to sign | Medium | Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. The school dog will be enclosed in when people come to interact with it. |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--------|---|
| | | and return the form if they were unwilling for their child have contact with the dog. Parents asked to explain their wishes to their child and ask them not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact. | | |
| Running loose | If the school dog was to run loose he could hurt children/adults or damage property | The school dog will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the door), in a cage or on a lead, always under the control of her handler. | Low | Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective. |
| 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 | Medium | Ensure that the dog is approached in the agreed manner |
| Destruction of materials | If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources | The dog will be contained at all times. The school dog will have its 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: Students and staff interaction with the school dog

Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Risk Rating | Step 4 |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Identify the hazards | Who might be harmed and how? | What are you already doing? | Trivial / low / medium / high / stop | Is anything further needed? |
| Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with dog | If a child/adult interacts with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dog's training and have a negative impact on future interaction. | 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. | Medium | 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. | 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. | Low | 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. |
| Student/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 | The school will deliver regular education to students about the correct interaction with the dog. | Medium | There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog. |

Area: Hygiene / Health

Reason: To ensure that students, staff and the school dog do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Risk Rating | Step 4 |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Identify the hazards | Who might be harmed and how? | What are you already doing? | Trivial / low / medium / high / stop | Is anything further needed? |
| 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 monthly to ensure she is correctly treated for worms and fleas | Low | |
| 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 field/playground they will report it to an adult. |
| Allergies | If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell | Children will not be in contact with the school dog if we have received a negative permission response form from parents/carers. If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child. | Medium | |
| 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. It 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. |

Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking.

Reason: To ensure that the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community.

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Risk Rating | Step 4 |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Identify the hazards | Who might be harmed and how? | What are you already doing? | Trivial / low / medium / high / stop | Is anything further needed? |
| Walking the dog on and off the site | Children could be harmed during a walk off site if they are not focused. 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. No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by an accompanying adult. No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when she 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 | The school dog will only make classroom visits with an adult. 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 be under the control of the class teacher or teaching assistant. |

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|-----|--|
| Being fed | If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating she may respond aggressively | No child will be allowed to the school dog's contained area when she is eating. Children may prepare the food for the school dog (washing their | Low | Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when she is eating. |
|-----------|---|---|-----|--|

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|-----|--|
| | | hands afterwards). All feeding will be supervised. | | |
| School events | If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous | The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and she will be under the control of a supervising adult | Low | Monitor the school dog's 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 the site) | If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous | No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises | Low | Monitor the school dog's reaction when out walking. |



Pets and animal management at Orchard Park High School

Sensible measures will be taken to reduce the risk of infection to children and to staff from the school dog.

Settings should only consider pets that are mature, and toilet trained. A knowledgeable person needs to be responsible for the animal or animals.

These individual members of staff will need to abide by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which places a duty on animal owners to ensure their animal's welfare needs are met.

- the types of animals allowed in the setting - dogs only
- how to manage them and permitted behaviour whilst on the premises
- where they can go and where they cannot go when in the setting
- any insurance liability of owners and handlers

All pets in education and childcare settings

Education and childcare settings should carefully follow specific advice for all pets on site, ensuring:

- animals are always supervised when in contact with students
- students and staff are advised to wash their hands immediately after handling animals
- animals have recommended treatments and immunisations, are regularly groomed (including claws trimmed) and checked for signs of infection
- bedding is laundered regularly
- feeding areas are kept clean and their food stored away from human food
- food is not consumed within 20 minutes and is taken away or covered to prevent attracting pests

Please see Orchard Park High School Dog Guidance which can be found on the school website www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk

Further details can be found on this website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-6-educational-visits>

C Rogers

C Rogers

L Goodwin

L Goodwin