

BOXGROVE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Dog Risk Assessment

Introduction:

The value of pet '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. The team at Boxgrove have been considering obtaining a dog as a school therapy pet and the decision was made in January 2021 to go ahead with the project.

The rationale behind this decision was as follows:

- For the school to have a pet that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow.
- For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day.
- To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with Oakley is invited to write to Mrs Dommett and inform them of their wishes. There are no diseases associated with the puppy as Arun Veterinary Group will be responsible for vaccinations, including rabies and completing regular health checks and necessary treatment. Oakley will also be insured (Public Liability Insurance will be purchased annually by the school and Mrs Sheehan will purchase pet insurance on an annual basis).

We believe that having a school dog will improve the children's abilities within the school and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels. In addition, we believe that dogs teach children responsibility, patience, compassion and socialisation.

The risk assessment below is a working document and will be checked annually by key staff and agreed by the governing body.

| Hazard | Risk | Risk | Controls in Place | Review Date |
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| <p>Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.</p> | <p>Pupil knocked to the ground.</p> <p>Pupil scratched by dog / Pupil bitten by dog.</p> | <p>Low risk</p> <p>Medium risk</p> | <p>The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises. Pupils will not be left unsupervised with the dog. The dog will always be on a lead or carried, when not in the school office, except when he is undergoing structured training with his primary trainer.</p> <p>Pupils will not be left unsupervised with the dog.</p> <p>The dog will always be on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk by the designated handler or responsible adult while the children are in school.</p> <p>Pupils have been and will continue to be taught about the consequences of their actions.</p> <p>Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to the whole school through assemblies and PSHE sessions.</p> <p>The dog will undergo formal training from the age of 11 weeks with an experience dog trainer.</p> | <p>May 2022</p> |

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| | | | <p>Risk of scratching and biting will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as he progresses through his weekly training.</p> <p>All staff will have been introduced to the dog and expectations of having a school dog.</p> <p>The designated handler will ensure the dog attends the vets regularly to ensure he is in good health and that his claws are kept short.</p> <p>Pupils should be shown the correct procedure for handling and stroking the dog.</p> <p>Pupils are warned of the hazards of the dog, e.g. not tormenting a sleeping dog that might retaliate upon waking.</p> <p>A First Aid Kit is available in all the classrooms as well as school office where the dog may work and there is access to a First Aider.</p> <p>All dog scratches and bites are carefully washed and a first aider contacted. Parents of the pupils are informed that an accident has occurred.</p> | |
| The dog causing allergies. | Pupils or staff have allergic reactions. | Medium risk | Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies before the introduction of the dog to the school. A list of any | May 2022 |

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| | | | <p>children/staff who should not interact with the dog will be kept in the school.</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog under the supervision of the designated handler or responsible adult and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.</p> <p>Pupils are instructed not to rub their eyes before washing their hands and are closely supervised.</p> <p>Medical assistance will be sought where an allergic reaction does not subside after first aid treatment or once the dog and the afflicted person are kept apart.</p> | |
| Pupils getting germs from the dog. | Pupils or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs. | Low risk | <p>Appropriate toilet facilities are provided and all waste produced, whether accidental or routine, are handled and disposed of hygienically and contaminated items and surfaces properly washed and disinfected. He will be trained to toilet in an area of the grounds that children have limited access to. The area will be disinfected as required.</p> | May 2022 |

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| | | | <p>Pupils and adults always wash their hands soon after handling the dog (or coming into contact with the soil, bedding, water, etc, in an animal's housing).</p> <p>Pupils are instructed not to rub their eyes before washing their hands and are closely supervised.</p> <p>All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the European Pet Passport Scheme and a copy of the record will be kept of this.</p> <p>Flea treatment will be carried out as per the Vet's guidance.</p> <p>The dog will be regularly wormed as per the Vet's guidance.</p> <p>The dog will not be allowed in the school hall at meal times (during COVID class rooms); and not in the food preparation area.</p> | |
| Phobias | Pupils, Staff, Adult Helpers, Visitors who have a phobia of dogs. | Medium risk | <p>Parents are asked to identify any pupils known to have a phobia of dogs.</p> <p>Where there are pupils with phobias, every effort is made to segregate the dog from the pupils with phobias.</p> | May 2022 |

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| Noise/Barking | Some children unable to cope with the noise. | Low risk | The dog is being introduced in to the school environment from an early age so will be used to a noisy environment so is less likely to bark. Extra orientation sessions in place for specific children if needed. | May 2022 |
| Financial cost of the dog's upkeep. | School unable to afford the ongoing cost of Oakley's day to day upkeep or medical bills. | Low risk | The dog is ultimately the responsibility of Mrs Sheehan both in a well-being and financial aspect. The dog will be insured by the school, for Public Liability Insurance and Mrs Sheehan will have pet insurance, which will cover all vet costs etc. The school will fund bedding/toys etc for the dog which will be kept in school. | May 2022 |
| Claim is made against school about the dog. | School not adequately covered financially. | Low risk | Insurance will cover any claim. Certificate will be kept in the school office and renewed annually. | May 2022 |
| Animal Welfare | Pupils, Teachers, Adult Helpers, Visitors | Low risk | Steps taken to ensure the dog is not frightened or stressed. Pupils are asked to remain quiet while in the same room as the dog. Pupils are told not to get their face too close to the dog. Pupils asked not to make any sudden movements close to the dog. | May 2022 |

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| | | | Sufficient clean water and food readily available for the dog. Mrs Sheehan will keep a record of the dog's vaccinations. The dog will be micro-chipped by law. | |
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Date Agreed by Governors : _____

Signed by Chair of Governors: _____

Review Date: _____