



# Berkeley Primary school: Dogs in school Risk Assessment

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	TYPE OF HARM	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES
<b>Animal behaviour</b>	Staff, pupils, visitors and handlers	Bites & scratches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checks are carried out prior to the visit to ensure that dogs which are brought in are friendly and gentle in the presence of children</li> <li>• Regular grooming and vet checks will ensure claws are kept short and dogs are in good health</li> <li>• Pupils are taught about the possible behaviours dogs exhibit if they do not feel relaxed, and are taught how to behave around dogs to avoid this, e.g. not teasing and tormenting which might cause a dog to become stressed and retaliate</li> <li>• Pupils are closely supervised by an adult with the dog</li> <li>• In the event of any bite or scratch, first aid will be administered by a qualified first aider, and an investigation will take place of the incident</li> <li>• A First Aid kit is available in every room, and mobile First aid kits are taken outside</li> </ul>
<b>Animal behaviour</b>		Dogs getting over excited when interacting with children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any dogs used for pet therapy must be at least 1 year old, and have completed puppy training</li> <li>• Any dogs used for pet therapy must have a good temperament and be used to being around children. <i>(Assessments are carried out by a qualified companion animal behaviour counsellor prior to regular visits to the school)</i></li> <li>• Children will not be left unsupervised with any dog on school premises</li> <li>• The dog will always be on a lead, or carried when not in their crate when interacting with children</li> <li>• Dogs will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises</li> <li>• Dogs will undergo conditioning to the school and classroom environment prior to regular pet therapy sessions</li> <li>• The school follows the Dogs trust Education programme to teach children about safety around dogs, which includes visits from Dogs Trust staff and assemblies</li> </ul>

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<b>Animal behaviour</b>	Staff, pupils, visitors and handlers	Dog gets loose from crate or lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The dog crate in school is large enough for them to be happy and safe during the school day when not interacting with children, and children are taught not to open the crate or tease them</li><li>• In the event a dog slips their lead or gets loose from their crate, staff will ensure they handle this situation swiftly, bringing the dog under control.</li><li>• Children and staff are taught how to behave in such an incident, to ensure dogs don't start chasing them to play, allowing an adult to bring the dog under control.</li></ul>

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	TYPE OF HARM	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES
<b>Poor Hygiene</b>	Staff, pupils, visitors and handlers	Infection, illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas</li><li>• Dogs are groomed before the visit</li><li>• All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands and use hand sanitiser after contact with dogs</li><li>• Handlers clear up dog urine and faeces promptly and dispose of this safely - pupils are told to stay away</li><li>• Dogs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas, and are not permitted in the dining hall</li><li>• Any cuts &amp; abrasions on exposed skin of hands and arms are covered before handling dogs</li><li>• Regular grooming of dogs will be maintained to ensure dogs are kept clean</li></ul>

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	TYPE OF HARM	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES
<b>Diseases, parasites and allergies</b>	Staff, pupils, visitors and handlers	Illness, allergic reaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are asked to identify any pupil known to have an allergic reaction to animals. This information is added to the medical information held in school, and these pupils have very restricted access to animals that may trigger a response</li> <li>• For dogs, checks are made that they have been checked regularly by a vet, with up to date vaccinations, worming and flea treatment</li> <li>• Appropriate toilet facilities are provided and all waste produced, whether accidental or routine, are handled and disposed of hygienically and any contaminated items/surfaces are properly washed and disinfected</li> <li>• Pupils and adults always wash and sanitise their hands soon after handling any animal, including any contact with an animals bedding, food or water bowls</li> <li>• Pupils are instructed not to rub their eyes before washing their hands and are closely supervised</li> <li>• Medical assistance will be sought where an allergic reaction does not subside once the animal and the afflicted person are kept apart</li> <li>• We seek parental permission for children to interact with dogs</li> <li>• Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies</li> </ul>
<b>Phobias</b>	Staff, pupils and visitors	People becoming distressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We tell parents, staff and children about the visit in advance</li> <li>• Contact with dogs is optional</li> <li>• Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia</li> <li>• All staff will have been introduced to any dog visiting the school, and also have the option to opt out of any sessions with dogs; in this instance, another member of staff will lead the session.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities and games involving the dog</b>	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	Dog becoming distressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handler(s) remain with dogs at all times</li> <li>• Handler(s) speak to school staff in advance and ensure the area and activity is safe</li> <li>• We check with the handler(s) and set a limit for the number of children who can interact with a dog at once</li> <li>• Handler(s) clean up urine and faeces</li> <li>• School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs</li> <li>• We set a time limit on activities as recommended by handlers, so dogs do not get tired</li> </ul>

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<b>Children misbehaving</b>	Pupils, dogs and handlers	Dog becoming distressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave</li> <li>• School staff are present at all time during the visit</li> <li>• School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs</li> </ul>
<b>Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site</b>	School property	Physical damage to property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs remain on a lead at all times</li> <li>• Dogs are kept in secured rooms, with closed doors</li> <li>• Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary</li> <li>• Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before dogs visit</li> </ul>