

Risk Assessment for a school dog



***** If you DO NOT want your child to interact with Bertie – please click consent on the School Gateway. If you are happy for your child to stroke, read to, go for walks with Bertie – you do not need to do anything. If your child has an allergy to dogs, please inform the office. We do not have any allergies listed on the school records. *****

Dog	Bertie	Breed	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel		
Breed	Miss Ridley	When	Monday- Wednesday	Where	Year 4 (mainly)

Bertie is 6 years old and is a trained Pet Therapy Dog with a very calm and gentle manner.

Aim:

To have a dog that the children can learn how to care for, interact safely around and also benefit their social and emotional development.

Children will learn the principles of good pet ownership and be taught how to handle dogs safely and responsibly; they will take great enjoyment from interaction with the dog. Bertie lives with Miss Ridley in her home at her own expense and will be introduced to the school environment and the children gradually. There are no diseases that could be caught from the dog as he will be kept up-to-date with immunisations including rabies, and worming treatment as in line with European vet guidelines. A register of his annual health check will be kept both by Miss Ridley and the vet's surgery. It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. *Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the dog, is given the option to opt out of interaction with Bertie via School Gateway*

This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the impact of a school dog will be evaluated by and senior leadership team

Hazard	Who is at risk	Risk rating high/medium/low	Actions/Control Measures	Person responsible
Illness, bites and scratches	Staff, pupils and handler	low	Bertie is healthy with no conditions that could be passed on to humans via contact i.e vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas. He is regularly seen by the vet. If Bertie has an illness, he will not visit school until he is well. All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser after contact with dogs.	Karen Ridley

			<p>Miss Ridley will clear up dog urine and faeces promptly and dispose of this safely - pupils are told to stay away</p> <p>Bertie is not taken anywhere near food preparation areas</p> <p>Bertie will receive ongoing formal training, socialising and conditioning within the school environment</p> <p>Parents are able to opt-out of consent for their child to interact with Bertie</p> <p>Students are taught appropriate behaviour around the school dog, what to do to prevent over stimulating or upsetting the dog and how to remain calm around him 5.</p> <p>Students are closely supervised by an adult during animal assisted therapy sessions Students are never left with the dog unsupervised</p> <p>Bertie will always be in the care of a responsible adult who will have received handling training</p> <p>If Bertie exhibits any warning behaviours such growling or lowered ears he will be removed immediately from students</p> <p>Bertie resides in the Year 4 room. In the event that the Bertie cannot be present in Year 4, he will be cared for in the Headteacher's office, The PPA room or the Administration office.</p> <p>Bertie has completed the Pet Therapy training</p> <p>Bertie and Miss Ridley are insured by the relevant charity that they completed training with (Pets as Therapy).</p> <p>In the event that a student, staff member or visitor is bitten or scratched (even if only a "play" bite) a first aider will assess the bite. The suitability of the school dog will then be reassessed by the Safeguarding Lead/Head Teacher</p>	
Allergies	Staff and pupils	low	<p>Parents will be given the option to opt out</p> <p>Bertie is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, which is not a high moulted breed to reduce the chance of an allergic reaction. Parents were asked to inform the school of any known allergies upon admission to school</p> <p>A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the Headteacher/teachers and office staff. Staff members will also be asked to inform the headteacher of any allergies.</p>	Staff present at sessions to remain vigilant for signs of allergies in children

			Fully supervised, children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. Wounds on exposed skin will be covered. Flea treatment will be carried out at monthly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals. If the dog is sick he will not come into school until he is better. The dog will never go into a food preparation area and/ or the kitchen	
Phobias	Staff and pupils	low	<p>We tell parents and children about the visit in advance and if necessary, we will provide an initial observation session to watch Bertie at a distance to allay any initial fears</p> <p>Contact with dogs is optional and staff will choose carefully children that contact would benefit.</p> <p>Parents will be offered a programme of support for child to help overcome aversion.</p> <p>Parents also offered the option of their child having no close contact. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the office staff.</p> <p>A notice will be displayed in school entrance, on the Y4 door and noted on school website.</p>	Miss Ridley and office staff
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<p>Miss Ridley will remain with dogs at all times If Miss Ridley cannot stay with the dog, Bertie will go to the Head's office.</p> <p>Miss Ridley will set a limit for the number of children who can interact with Bertie at once- agreed as no more than 2 children at one time.</p> <p>Miss Ridley clean up urine and faeces</p> <p>School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs</p> <p>Time limit on activities as recommended by Miss Ridely so Bertie does not get tired or overwhelmed</p>	Miss Ridley will remain vigilant with children visiting
Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers	low	<p>Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave</p> <p>School staff are present at all time during the visit</p> <p>School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs or show signs of distress</p> <p>Clear expectations for behaviour explained to pupils in advance of visit.</p> <p>Miss Ridley must have control of the dog at all times and dog is to be kept on lead which must be held by Miss Ridley</p> <p>If Miss Ridley or school is concerned about the behaviour of pupils towards the Bertie, they may end the visit at any time, both parties should discuss how to improve for future visits.</p>	Staff

<p>Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.</p>	<p>Child/staff knocked to ground Child/staff scratched by dog Child/staff bitten by dog</p>		<p>The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises unsupervised.</p> <p>Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. During the school day the dog will always be on a lead when not in his basket or in Year 4</p> <p>The dog will be trained not to jump up or bite the children. Pupils will be taught how to read dog behaviour and the impact of their actions. Education of this nature will continually be given to children in whole school assembly, in class time and PSHE lessons.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still with arms crossed over their bodies –‘standing tall like a tree’). The dog will attend the groomers regularly to make sure his claws are kept short and is also walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them trimmed. Miss Ridley has had formal training</p>	
<p>Keeping safe when dog walking</p>			<p>A member of staff will always have the school dog on the lead and have responsibility to ensure that they have control of him. Children, in small groups, may walk the school dog with a member of staff. The member of staff will always hold the lead. Children are reminded how to keep safe crossing the road and are supervised at all times by the member of staff. (Permission to walk offsite will be gained from parents/carers beforehand). The member of staff will pick up any dog excrement and will remind children of the importance of washing hands on return to school. Children will be given the choice if they would like to stroke the school dog and or feed the dog a treat and are shown how to do this safely with a flat hand. They will be reminded on return to school to wash their hands. All members of school community to be vigilant to look where they are walking to avoid tripping over the dog. The dog to be on a short lead when walking around school with a member of staff.</p>	
<p>Financial cost of the dog's upkeep</p>			<p>The dog is the financial responsibility of Miss Ridley. She is financially responsible for all his care and day-today costs. The dog is the responsibility of Miss Ridley outside of school hours.</p>	