



Filey Junior School

Widening horizons and reaching our potential whilst respecting the world and each other,
within a happy, healthy and positive learning community

SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT - School Dog

Benefits / Objectives of the activity:

To have a dog on the school premises to promote pupil well-being, responsibility, empathy and engagement & reward:

Dogs have a calming effect on many children (and adults). Research studies in both Britain and America have concluded that having a dog in a school can have many positive benefits – these include help to calm children down, improve academic achievement, motivate those children who are often not that attentive, teach responsibility and encourage children to respect all life. Furthermore it has been shown that when classmates share the affection and care of a 'school dog', a bond forms among the classmates and strengthens their team ethics.

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures	Who needs to know?
(A) Dog excrement & urine	A) Dog is wormed, vaccinated and has flea and tick control etc Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly and disposed of responsibly and hygienically. Hand washing facilities available throughout school. A bag containing poo bags/ plastic bags, disposable gloves, antibacterial gel etc will be carried by member of staff walking dog. Dog will only be exercised / 'toileted' off-site.	A) Staff exercising dog
(B) Allergic reaction to dog	B) Dog breed is hypoallergenic (see note* below). Letter sent out to parents so that any problems with allergies are identified. Dog kept clean and groomed. Dog bed in office. Office to be kept well ventilated. Dog bedding and equipment washed and kept to a high standard. Regular vacuuming and cleaning of office carpet undertaken by cleaning staff. Aprons provided for pupils handling the dog if required. Children advised to wash hands after handling dog. Hand gel available outside office.	B) Pupils, Staff, Parents

(C) Scratches, dog bite	C) Dog is well trained and sociable. Dog breed is sociable and good natured**. There will be no unsupervised contact with pupils. Dog bed in office and dog only ever out of office under close supervision. Dog will be closely supervised and kept under control on a lead when out of the Office. Pupils and staff will all be made aware of the procedures and etiquette on meeting and handling the dog, which will always be under supervision, to ensure any risk is completely minimised. First Aid kit available outside of office. First aiders available in school.	B) Pupils, Staff
(D) Noise, barking	D) Dog is well trained and sociable. Dog breed is sociable and good natured. As the dog is introduced to the school gradually, it becomes acclimatised to the environment and the risk of barking greatly minimised. Dog removed from situation causing it to bark.	B) Pupils, Staff
(E) Fire drill, evacuation of dog	E) Dog will be under the supervision of a member of staff all of the time. Dog to be supervised at a location close to assembly point with 'two way radio' communication used between dog supervisor and assembly point lead person.	B) Pupils, Staff, identified 'person' to supervise dog.

***One of the advantages of owning a Cockapoo is that they are hypoallergenic dogs; this means they are less likely to cause an allergic reaction in humans. By bringing a hypoallergenic dog into your household you are reducing the risk of the dog triggering an allergic reaction.**

Allergies to dogs are most commonly caused by a reaction to the dander (dead skin cells) that the dog produces, and not to the fur itself. The dander and saliva sticks to the dog's fur and is released during the normal shedding process. A hypoallergenic dog, therefore, will be one that produces less dander (or retains it). The poodle has a low dander count and a low-non shedding coat, and these characteristics are inherited by the Cockapoo. Many people with asthma and eczema are therefore able to live closely with a Cockapoo without being troubled by allergic symptoms at all. However, those with allergies would be advised to spend time with an adult Cockapoo to test for an allergic response - we recommend you pay a visit to a breeder if you do not know of anyone with a Cockapoo.

It should be noted that no dog breed is 100% allergy friendly, but the Cockapoo with its low-shedding, low-dander coat comes pretty close.

****Cockapoos love people. This particular hybrid dog has an outgoing happy disposition that makes them the perfect family pet; it is no wonder the cockapoo temperament is so desirable. Their playful personality has made them one of the most popular mixed breed dogs, and they engage old and young alike with their intelligent and playful nature. Coupled with a forgiving disposition they make the perfect child-friendly household-pet. Their compact size has made them an ideal apartment dog but they are just as happy exploring the great outdoors or having fun at the beach.**

Their parentage (cocker spaniel and poodle cross) ensures they are easy to train but because they are people orientated they should not be left on their own for long periods.

Cockapoos have a reputation for being needy. Crate training is recommended to deal with their bouts of separation anxiety. If not addressed, this anxiety can manifest in very destructive chewing and digging. This trait does not reflect the current reputation in the majority of English-bred Cockapoos however, especially those that have been professionally bred and have had a normal early socialization period with their mother and litter mates.

To properly understand the Cockapoo temperament you need to understand the nature of parent breeds. Poodles and Cocker spaniels are regarded as among the most intelligent of all dog breeds so it should come as no surprise that Cockapoos are very clever.

If a Cockapoo is not kept happily engaged intellectually and is allowed to become bored, they will soon find mischief. While aggression is not at all common with Cockapoos, they will come up with highly inventive and occasionally destructive ways to keep themselves entertained. These can range from barking and jumping, to chewing furniture and at worst self-destructive scratching.

So long as a Cockapoo has adequate physical and mental stimulation, you will be hard pressed to find any dog that is more consistently friendly. They are ready to play at the drop of a hat and get along brilliantly with other dogs at the park or at meet ups. Often a buoyant Cockapoo takes the lead in getting quieter dogs in the middle of a game, rather like a four-legged activity co-ordinator.

Cockapoos also have a charming reputation for their intuitive natures. They don't just pick up on your daily routines, but also on your current emotional state. This sensitivity makes them excellent therapy dogs. If you are crying, expect to have a very concerned dog at your side licking away your tears and trying to address and help with the problem.

While this is a sweet and endearing trait, in some instances it works to the detriment of the dog's well-being. In the presence of long-term anxiety on the part of their owner, Cockapoos can dissolve into a state of nervous collapse themselves.

Emergency Contacts and Procedures

School: 01723 513076

Mr McCarthy: 07786 697838

NYCC Emergency Contact: 01609 532234; Out of Hours: 01609 777398; Alternative number: 01609 534375

Risk Assessment Completed by:

Date:

Reviewed by:

Date: