

# Leftwich Community 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 rationale behind this decision was:

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

Prior to purchasing Elsie, the Head Teacher, Lynn Guy visited the home of the puppy's parents to ensure that the temperament of the parents was suitable for interaction with children. It was decided that the puppy would live with Mrs Guy and would be introduced to the children gradually. A local vet's practice thoroughly checked the puppy for any illnesses and is responsible for her vaccination programme. There are no diseases that could be caught from the puppy as she is kept up to date with immunisations including rabies and her worming treatment is in line with European vet guidelines. A register of her annual health check is kept both by Lynn Guy 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 should notify Mrs Guy or Mrs Harrison. This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the impact of a school dog will be evaluated by the school leadership team.

Hazard	Risk	Controls in Place	Review Date
<p>Elsie getting over excited when interacting with children</p> <p>Elsie gets loose from her cage or from her lead</p>	<p>Child being knocked to the ground</p> <p>Child scratched by the dog</p> <p>Child bitten by the dog</p>	<p>Children are not left with the dog unsupervised</p> <p>The dog will always be on a lead when outdoors at break times and lunch times.</p> <p>Children encouraged to be calm and quiet when the dog is moving around the school.</p> <p>The dog will be trained not to jump up or mouth the children The children have been and continue to be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to the children and often whole school during assemblies and PSHE lessons. Children will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e.. stand still, cross arms)</p> <p>The dog will under-go formal puppy training with an experienced local trainer. Lynn Guy to attend and continue to reinforce positive training strategies in a controlled area throughout the week.</p> <p>The dog will undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment. This area of training will allow future reading or nurture intervention to involve the school dog in a calming/therapeutic manner.</p> <p>Risk of scratching and mouthing will reduce as the puppy matures and the risk assessment will be reviewed as the dog progresses through his weekly training.</p> <p>All staff have been introduced to the dog and the expectations of having a school dog.</p> <p>The dog will attend the vets' regularly to make sure her claws are kept short and that she is in good health.</p>	<p>January 20</p>

	<p>Child being knocked to the ground</p> <p>Child scratched by the dog</p> <p>Child bitten by the dog</p>	<p>The dog's cage is big enough for her to be happy and safe during the school day and the children are taught not to disturb her when she is in her cage or sleeping.</p> <p>If the dog does get loose a member of staff will put her back in her cage or on her lead.</p> <p>Members of staff who are primarily responsible for ensuring the dog is secure in school are</p> <p>Lynn Guy ~ Head Teacher          Claire Harrison~ Head Teacher          Debbie Rees ~ Bursar          Sue Bain ~ Family support worker</p>	
<p>Dog hair causing allergies</p>	<p>Children have allergic reaction</p>	<p>Parents inform school of medical conditions/allergies before children start school. Medical information is regularly updated and parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to the introduction of the dog.</p> <p>Research guided the school into choosing a dog which is promoted as being hypoallergenic, due to their very low shedding.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Children have been taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. Hand sanitiser is always available at various locations throughout the school.</p>	
<p>Children getting germs from the dog</p>	<p>Children, Staff or parents will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs</p>	<p>Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. The dog will be trained to toilet in an area of the school that our pupils don't have access to on a regular basis. If required areas will be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.</p> <p>The dog will be encouraged to toilet before arriving at school.</p>	

		<p>All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport Scheme and the Head Teacher keeps a register of this.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals.</p> <p>Worming treatment is carried out in line with European vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals.</p> <p>The dog will not go into the hall during lunch time and will not be permitted into the food preparation area of the kitchen.</p>	
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog's day to day keep or medical bills	<p>Although the dog is to be used for 'therapy' work within school, Lynn Guy will be responsible for the costs of day to day upkeep and medical bills.</p> <p>School will research possible funding through Attachment Friendly Award and the 'Paws 4 Learning' programme.</p>	
Claim is made against the school re: behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially	<p>Head Teacher/Bursar ensures Pet Insurance is up to date and adequately covers the school for unforeseen costs.</p> <p>The insurance certificate is kept in the school office and renewed annually</p>	