

Northgate Primary School

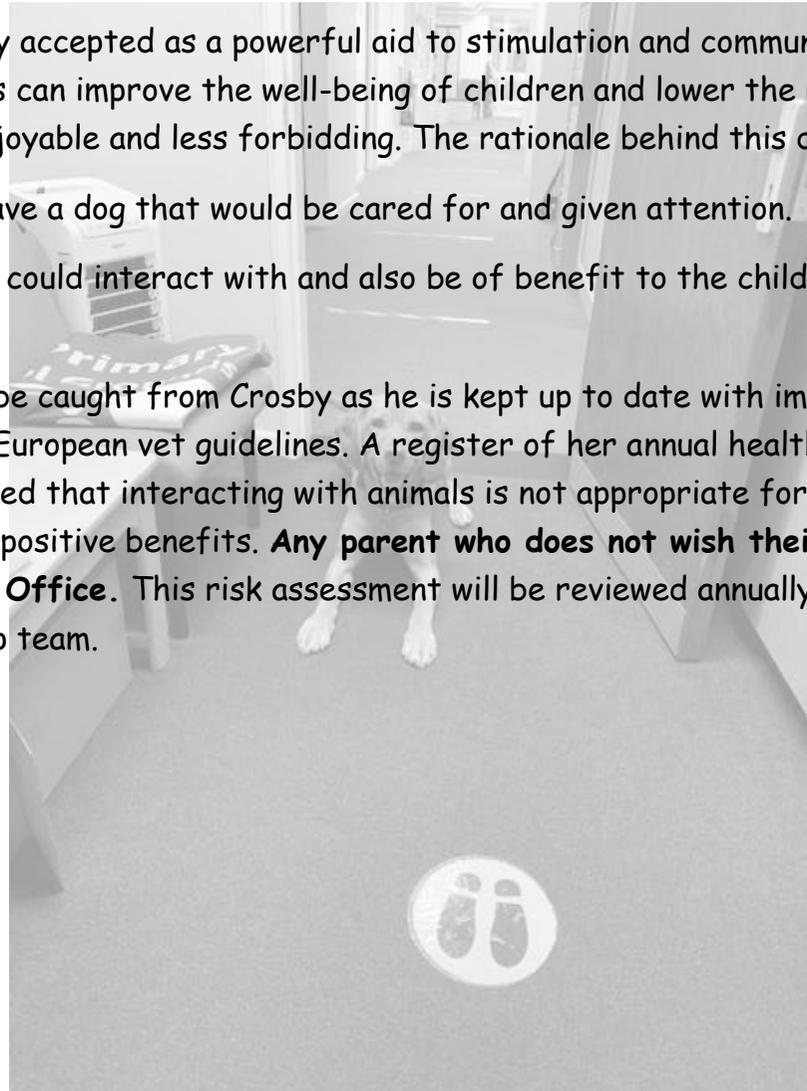
School Dog Risk Assessment - 2021

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 periodically have a dog that would be cared for and given attention.
2. To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development.

There are no diseases that could be caught from Crosby as he 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 Mr Collins 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 Mr Collins and the Office.** This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the impact of a dog will be evaluated by the school leadership team.



Hazard	Risk	Controls in place	Review date 2022
<p>Crosby getting over excited when interacting with children</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 The dog will always be on a lead when outdoors at break times and lunch times if playtime is on.</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), if needed. All staff have been introduced to the dog and the expectations of having a school dog. The dog will attend the vets' regularly</p>	

		<p>to make sure her claws are kept short and that he is in good health.</p> <p>Members of staff who are primarily responsible for ensuring the dog is secure in school are</p> <p>Mike Collins - Head Teacher Claire Andrews - Assistant Head Teacher Penny Manning- PSA</p>	
Dog hair causing allergies	Children have allergic reaction	<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 allowing a dog which is promoted as being hypoallergenic, due to breed. Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those</p>	

		<p>with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. 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. The dog will be encouraged to toilet before arriving at school. 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. Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals. The dog will not go</p>	

		into the hall during lunch time and will not be permitted into the food preparation area of the kitchen.	
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