



**NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH
PRIMARY SCHOOL
DOGS IN SCHOOL
RISK ASSESSMENT – Summer 2022**

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 as follows:

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

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children, but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with the dog (“Treacle”) is invited to write to the Headteacher and inform them of their wishes. There are no diseases associated with Treacle as her vet will be responsible for vaccinations completing regular health checks and necessary treatment. A copy of Treacle’s health records will be updated and kept in school. Treacle will also be insured.

The risk assessment below is a working document and will be checked annually by key staff.

Hazard	Risk	Risk 1 - 5	Controls in place	Review date
Treacle getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child knocked to the ground.	4	Treacle will always be in the care of the designated handler or a “responsible adult”. “Responsible Adult” shall mean any member of staff who has read the policy fully, received appropriate training and is aware of the risks and responsibilities to both children and staff. Treacle will not be left unattended at any time. Treacle will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises.	Termly
Children getting over excited when interacting with Treacle	Child scratched by Treacle. Child bitten by Treacle.	4		
	Treacle becoming stressed.	2		



			<p>Treacle must not be passed to any member of staff not deemed a “responsible adult” as defined above.</p> <p>Children will not be left unsupervised with Treacle.</p> <p>Treacle will wear a harness at all times whilst on the school premises to allow the “responsible adult” to attach a lead to keep her under control should she become over excited.</p>	
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			<p>Treacle will always be on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk by the designated handler or responsible adult while the children are in school.</p> <p>Pupils have been and will continue to be taught about the consequences of their actions around Treacle. For example, pulling on her tail or touching near her back end.</p> <p>Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to the whole school through assemblies and PSHE sessions.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent Treacle from chasing them.</p> <p>Pupils and adults will ask the permission of the dog handler/responsible adult before approaching Treacle and before stroking her.</p> <p>Pupils and adults should wash their hands after stroking Treacle.</p> <p>Treacle underwent formal training from the age of 14 weeks with an experienced dog trainer. Evidence is recorded and kept in school.</p> <p>Risk of scratching and biting will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as she progresses through her weekly</p>	
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			<p>training. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p> <p>All staff will have been introduced to Treacle and expectations of having a school dog.</p> <p>The designated handler will ensure Treacle attends the vets regularly to ensure she is in good health and will regularly book grooming appointments, ensuring her claws are kept short. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p>	
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<p>Treacle causing allergies.</p>	<p>Children or staff have allergic reactions</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies before the introduction of Treacle to the school.</p> <p>If required a list of any children/staff who should not interact with Treacle will be kept in school.</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to interact with Treacle under the supervision of the designated handler or responsible adult and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with Treacle.</p>	<p>Termly</p>
<p>Children getting germs from Treacle.</p>	<p>Children or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Should Treacle defecate on the school site, the member of staff in charge of Treacle will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe way.</p> <p>Treacle leaves the school premises for short walks and toileting.</p> <p>All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the European Pet Passport Scheme and a record will be kept of this. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at 4 week intervals and is recorded. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p>	<p>Termly</p>



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			<p>Treacle will not be allowed in the school dining hall at meal times; and never in the food preparation area.</p> <p>Treacle will be regularly wormed – every 3 months. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p>	
Noise/barking	Some children unable to cope with the noise		<p>Treacle was introduced in to the school environment from an early age so is used to a noisy environment so is less likely to bark.</p> <p>Extra orientation sessions in place for specific children.</p> <p>Ensuring some children have ear defenders if needed.</p>	Termly
Treacle Timetable with Children			<p>Carole Tebble will go to the specified class with Treacle to collect the children who have been identified to have support. The children will walk alongside Treacle in a sensible manner.</p> <p>During these lessons, in the Rainbow Room, the children will not stroke Treacle until Ms Tebble gives the instruction.</p> <p>The children will sanitise their hands after touching Treacle.</p>	Termly



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Financial cost of Treacle's upkeep.	School unable to afford the ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills.	3	Treacle will be insured by the school, for Public Liability Insurance. All vets costs are covered by 'Pet Plan' under her private insurance paid for by the school. The school's budget has been adjusted to include the costs of having Treacle.	Termly
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Key: 1 Low risk 3 medium risk of injury 5 high risk of injury