

Support Paws Risk Assessment



Area: Working Environment				Assessment Date:			
Reason: To ensure the community dog has a safe environment to work correctly for the handler and interacts appropriately at all times				Review Date:			
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating Low/Medium/ High	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?		Ongoing actions	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
There is a risk the dog may bite.	Person could be hurt if the community dog bites	Dog is behaviourally mature. The community dog is assessed annually by a Veterans with Dogs behaviourist to ensure they are suitable for the task.	Low	Ensure that people do not interact with the community dog without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with the community dog is completed in the agreed way as directed by its handler.	Continue ongoing training and socialisation	Handler	
Jumping up/scratching	If the community dog becomes excited there is a danger that they could jump up and knock someone over or leave a scratch mark	The dog is trained not to jump up and solicit attention from anyone other than its' handler.	Medium	Ensure that people do not interact with the community dog without supervision or permission.	Continue ongoing training and socialisation	Handler	

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Running loose	If the community dog was to run loose, he could hurt someone or damage property	The community dog is always under direct supervision and control of the handler and is not allowed to run loose whilst working. The dog should be taken to an appropriate area for play and exercise.	Low	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the community dog is appropriate and effective	Ensure all canine equipment is checked and on hand during school sessions	Handler	
Noise, barking	Pupils, teachers and visitors	The dog is a breed that is very sociable and good natured and has been exposed to and trained for numerous different environments. Dog will be removed from any situation that is causing it to bark.	Low	Ensure that the community dog has had adequate enrichment opportunities before the session/event	Continue ongoing training and socialisation	Handler	

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Area: Interaction with the community dog				Assessment Date:			
Reason: To ensure the community dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times				Review Date:			
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating Low/Medium/ High	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?		Ongoing actions	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the community dog	If a person interacts with the community dog in an incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the community dog's training and have a negative impact on future interactions	Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the community dog. There cannot be any interaction with the community dog without permission of the handler.	Medium	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the community dog the person will have the interaction stopped	Continue ongoing training and socialisation	Handler	
Use of rewards/treats	People could be harmed if the community dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat	Treats will only be given to the community dog with authorization of the handler. Dog has been trained to receive rewards and treats without snatching or mouthing and is non territorial	Low	Treats to be kept out of reach to ensure they can only be used when permission is granted by the handler.	Continue ongoing treat training	Handler	

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Phobias	People might be afraid if near the dog	People should be made aware of the community dog in the setting and allowances made for them to remain separated from the dog.	Low	Movement through setting during low traffic times. Dog is always on a lead during active working time.	Continue with ongoing training and socialisation	Handler/School	
Damage caused to school environment	Site resources	Dog is trained, socialised and is non-destructive, however, the handler may choose to provide items for enrichment. Dog will always be on a lead during working times.	Low	Dog will not be left unsupervised and will always be on a lead	Ensure all canine equipment is to hand for any school visit		
Fire Drill, evacuation of dog	Dog	A clear evacuation exit should be available for the dog and never left in a locked room. Dog will be under the supervision of its handler at all times	Low				

Support Paws Risk Assessment



Area: Hygiene/Health				Assessment Date:			
Reason: To ensure that people and the community dog to not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the community dog being in the setting.				Review Date:			
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk rating low / medium / high	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?		Ongoing actions	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
Worms/fleas/ticks	If the community dog is not treated for worms, there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans	The community dog is treated regularly for worms, ticks, and fleas	Low	Monthly tick and flea treatments delivered	Order enough supply of medication	Handler	
Allergies	If someone is allergic to dogs, they could display symptoms.	The effected people to be informed of the dog's attendance in advance so appropriate measures can be taken to prevent interaction when on site Alternative arrangements could be made for persons with allergies.	Low	Dog will always be kept on lead and under control by the handler to prevent interaction with affected people	Continue ongoing training and socilisation	Handler/School	

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Feces/Urine	If someone comes into contact with the community dog's feces some germs could be transferred	The community dog will only be walked/take toilet breaks under supervision off site. Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly and disposed of responsibly and hygienically. Handler is responsible for cleanup items such as poo bags/plastic bags, kitchen roll, antibacterial spray, rubber gloves etc.	Low	Dog will be walked prior to event and encouraged to toilet before entering the site.	Equipment needed for clean up to be readily on hand. Appropriate toileting breaks offered regularly	Handler	
Contact with food preparation areas	If the community dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	The community dog is not permitted into food preparation areas	Trivial	Awareness of the site to prevent accidental entrance to food prep areas		Handler/School	
Other dogs (on and off site)	If the community dog encounters another dog he may be distracted from working	Community dogs are trained to be sociable with other dogs but should always be allowed to work without interference or distraction.	Low	Advise other dog owners of the job role of a community dog and mitigate interaction with outside dogs.	Continue ongoing training and socialisation	Handler	

Support Paws Risk Assessment



Area: Dog's wellbeing				Assessment Date:			
Reason: To ensure the community dog is safe and happy				Review Date:			
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating Trivial / low /medium / high / stop	Step 4	Step 5 Action & Review		
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?		Ongoing actions	Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
Community dog becomes stressed	Dog's wellbeing and ability to work properly.	Dog has been properly trained and prepared for his work. Dog should have clear rest breaks and enrichment	Low	Handler to observe and respond to dogs' needs	Continue ongoing training and socialisation	Handler	
Consistent care	Dog	Handler has responsibility for the dog's welfare, food, veterinary checks, exercise regime	Low	Ongoing assessment by VWD and checkups. Insurance for dog's medical care	Ensure insurance is up to date and dogs needs are always met	Handler	
Dog is ill/In season	Dog	Dog will not work during times of illness or when in season	Low	Regular medical check-ups at the vet	Continued observational assessment of dog's health by handler	Handler	