

Pets as Therapy Risk Assessment

RA21



Establishment/Department: Bow Community Primary School

Primary Whole School Risk Assessment

RA21

Address: Station Road, Bow, EX17 6HU

Person(s)/Group at Risk
Staff, Pupils, Visitors and Contractors

Date assessment completed: January 2025
Date to be reviewed: January 2026

Activity/Task/Process/Equipment
Therapy Dog – Kipper (Pets as Therapy)

Assessor(s)
Clare Wilmott

Significant Hazard and possible Outcomes/injuries	Control Measures in Place <i>Additional measures or actions not included in this column below should be put in the assessor's recommendations at the end of this document</i>	Risk rating			Additional Control Required
		Like likelihood	Impact/Severity	Risk Rating Score	
Canine related diseases and parasites (Pupils/ staff Ill health)	Dog to have necessary and current vaccinations before coming into school. Vaccinations and other medical treatment is the responsibility of the owner Dog to have regular veterinary checks Dog will be kept free of fleas, ticks Dog to be bathed regularly Dog lives with owner when not in school and only visits at the agreed days/times	2	3	6	All aspects of Kipper's care are the responsibility if his owner/ handler. Kipper is covered by the Pets as Therapy Public Liability Insurance.

Dog excrement and urine ill-health, slips and falls	Dog to be wormed on a regular basis Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly disposed of responsibly and hygienically by the owner or at the time of the incident. The immediate area will be sprayed with disinfectant spray, which the school will supply	2	3	6	When Kipper is out on a walk, owner will carry 'poo bags' with them and it is that person's responsibility to ensure the excrement is double bagged and disposed of responsibly and hygienically.
Hygiene/Infection	Adequate provision for hand-washing Following contact with the dog, children will be advised not to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are thoroughly washed Children will be reminded to wash their hands after spending time with the dog All wounds on exposed skin are suitably covered	2	3	6	
Bites, cuts and scratches	There will be no unsupervised contact with children. Dog closely supervised, kept under control and on a lead at all times during school day hours when moving around school. The owner will have hold of the lead at all times when walking around school during core hours (see above). Pupils and staff will be made aware of the procedures of meeting and handling the dog: Always remain calm around the dog Don't make sudden movements Don't put your face near the dog Always approach the dog standing up Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping or eating Don't eat close to the dog and never feed the dog	2	3	6	Kipper is very calm, but can still get a bit excitable on meeting new people Kipper has been assessed for temperament by Pets as Therapy with owner Helen Ref: PAT-2259214.

	your food or other food/treats without permission First aid kit accessible. The owner will ensure the dog is not abused or over petted to avoid any incidents.					
Allergic reaction to dogs	All parents/carers and members of the school community will be informed via the website, newsletters and letter home that there will be a dog on site and asked to inform the school if they or their child has an allergy to dogs or severe fear of dogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	3	2	6	Kipper with short coat. All allergy information will be collected before the dog is working with any children. A relevant file will be kept in the school office. A notice will be displayed in the entrance. Areas where dog visits will be kept well ventilated Pupils known to be allergic to dogs will not be allowed access to the dog Visitors to the school will be informed on arrival that there is a dog on the premises	
Noise/ Barking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog chosen is sociable and will not be left with children unsupervised at any time If problems occur, dog will be removed from the situation/school by the owner 	2	3	6	Any issues to be reported immediately to Headteacher	
Fire drill and evacuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The owner will be responsible for safety leading the dog from the building to a place of safety. If a fire evacuation happens, Kipper and his owner will follow fire evacuation procedures. 	2	3	6	Harness to be taken out with the dog on the lead and put on as quickly as possible once evacuated for her safety	

Scoring Table

LEVEL OF RISK	OVERALL RATING	HOW THE RISK SHOULD BE TACKLED/MANAGED
HIGH RISK	15-25	Immediate Management Action
MEDIUM RISK	9-12	Plan for Change
LOW RISK	1-8	Continue to Manage

Likelihood (A)		Impact (B)				
		1	2	3	4	5
5 Almost Certain		5	10	15	20	25
4 Probable / Likely		4	8	12	16	20
3 Possible		3	6	9	12	15
2 Unlikely		2	4	6	8	10
1 Very Unlikely / Rare		1	2	3	4	5
		1 Insignificant / Negligible	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Critical / Catastrophic

Risk Score

To calculate the Risk Score in the Risk Assessment Register above, simply multiply the Impact by the Likelihood to identify the level of risk as per the table above.

Risk Scoring Guide

Consider the potential harm or injury that could result from the identified hazard if an accident or incident were to occur, based on the table below.

IMPACT	SCORE	HEALTH & SAFETY EFFECT
Critical / Catastrophic	5	Multiple deaths of employees, service users, members of the public, etc.
Major	4	Death of an employee, service user, member of the public, etc.
Moderate	3	Serious injury (acute, chronic or life-changing) to employee, service user or member of the public requiring medical intervention.
Minor	2	Minor injury such as a bump or bruise that may require First Aid treatment and the person returns to work.
Insignificant / Negligible	1	A day to day issue/problem but negligible harm would result.

Impact Criteria (B)

Now consider the likelihood of that harm or injury being realised based on the expected frequencies in the table below.

LIKELIHOOD	SCORE	EXPECTED FREQUENCY
Almost Certain	5	Reasonable to expect that the event WILL undoubtedly happen/recur, possibly frequently and is probable in the current year
Probable / Likely	4	Event is MORE THAN LIKELY to occur, will probably happen/recur, but is not a persisting issue. Will possibly happen in the current year and be likely in the longer term
Possible	3	LITTLE LIKELIHOOD of event occurring. Not likely in the current year, but reasonably likely in the medium/long term.
Unlikely	2	Event NOT EXPECTED. Do not expect it to happen/recur. Extremely unlikely in the longer term.
Very Unlikely / Rare	1	EXCEPTIONAL event. This will probably never happen/recur. A barely feasible event.

Likelihood Criteria (A)

APPENDIX EIGHT - DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Assessor's Recommendations - Additional Control Measures or Actions			
Section	List Actions / Additional Control Measures	Date action to be carried out	Person Responsible

Signed Headteacher/Establishment Manager:



Date: January 2025

The outcome of this assessment should be shared with the relevant staff.
 A copy of the completed assessment to be kept on file and copied to the Health & Safety Co-ordinator