



Jack and Pals Therapy Dogs risk assessment (suggested)

Setting Name:				
Activity:	Jack and Pals Therapy Dogs risk assessment for visits			
Completed by:	Wendy Withington for Jack and Pals		Setting manager:	
Hazards	Who is at risk?	Current Control Measures	Additional Requirements	Timescale
Basic standards for dogs when visiting	All	Dogs visiting must: 1. Be a minimum of 12 months of age 2. Have undertaken a minimum of 4 visits at other establishments before embarking on any educational visits with children under 17. 3. Have been living with the owners for a minimum of six months before undertaking any visits for Jack and Pals Therapy Dogs. 4. Be calm and not bark, mouth, jump up at, or paw people 5. Be Adaptable to new environments and unexpected stimuli, such as new smells, objects, and sudden noises 6. Be socially confident, enjoy human interaction, and be relaxed and calm in the company of children, even when there is a level of noise and erratic behaviour around 7. Be accepting of being stroked and handled and having their paws, tail and ears touched.	Dogs must have passed the Jack and Pals Therapy Dogs temperament assessment and have suitable ID displayed when entering the setting and when asked.	

Basic standards for dogs when visiting	All	8. Have short trimmed short at all times. 9. Be comfortable engaging with people that may have physical/learning disabilities, and around mechanical aids e.g. wheelchairs, where relevant 10. Exhibit no guarding of resources e.g. food/toys or avoidance behaviour 11. Take treats gently when offered and not snatch toys from hands 12. Be easily identifiable as a dog performing a clear role in the setting means of a lead and collar displaying the words 'therapy dog'. 13. Be under control at all times by means of being held on the lead or in a confined area. If others wish to walk with the dog, an additional lead should be attached to the collar.		
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Bites and scratches.	Staff & Visitors	1. All dogs should meet the standards laid out in the assessment process for Jack and Pals Therapy Dogs. 2. Dogs will have a limited “workload”, to avoid overstimulation. Their time in a setting will be limited as advised by the volunteer, but not exceeding two hours. 3. Dogs will not be approached or handled while eating, except for by their owner. 4. Visitors will not play boisterous games with the dog, such as tug or play fighting. 5. Dogs will always be supervised by volunteer and will be on lead or in a secure area. 6. Dogs will have sufficient break periods. 7. Visitors should not put their face near to the dog’s face. 8. When in schools, pupils will be reminded not to shout/scream at the dog, and to remain seated while in class with the dog. 9. The dog will be removed from any setting at the first signs of displacement behaviour. 10. The dog will be allowed to acclimate to the noises and smells of the setting before their visit. 11. Staff will be consulted to identify phobias of pupils or residents who have had negative experiences with dogs in the past.	Any incidents or accidents must be reported immediately to the organisation via email admin@jackandpals.org	
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Illness spread by dogs. fleas, worms and ticks. Allergies.	Staff Visitors	1. Dogs will be up to date on all vaccinations or titre testing for worming, flea and tick treatments as necessary 2. Dogs will be in good health and regularly attend check-ups with a qualified veterinarian. 3. Waste products will be cleaned away promptly by the owner. 4. The dog will not be allowed in to food preparation areas. 5. Food will not be eaten in the room with the dog. 6. The dog will be regularly groomed to prevent excess shedding. 7. People with allergies will not have contact with the dog, and the dog will not work in their vicinity. 8. Persons with a compromised immune system or other health vulnerability should not handle pet waste. 9. Persons with open wounds should not participate in activities with the dog. 10. Hands will be washed before and after handling the dog. 11. Dogs are discouraged from licking.	The necessary documentation is checked by Jack and Pals Therapy dogs and held on their database. All dogs are assessed and meet the necessary standards set by the organisation.	
Dog welfare	Dog and visiting volunteer	1. Dogs should be in good health to undertake the role they are required to do. 2. Handlers must use only positive reward-based training methods and equipment. 3. Dogs must travel confidently and comfortably in any mode of transport they are expected to use. 4. Each active session with the therapy dog must be no longer than two hours. 5. They should have access to a quiet, safe and comfortable place to rest for a proportionate break between sessions.	This will be monitored by our visiting members and acted on according to any incidents or accidents.	

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. During this time, only the dog's handler should be allowed access to the dog.7. Dogs must have access to fresh drinking water.8. Dogs must be given the opportunity to toilet when required, in an appropriate place provided by the setting.9. If a dog shows signs of stress, anxiety, discomfort or fatigue, they must be taken out of the situation and only brought back into the session if fully recovered and the issue causing the stress has been identified and addressed.10. Enough space must be provided in the working area for the dog to be able to move about comfortably and lay down.11. Dogs must be re-assessed regularly to confirm that they are in good health, both physically and emotionally and have the appropriate temperament to continue working. This assessment should be conducted once every three years, or after a period of significant absence.12. The handler is responsible for ensuring that the dog is not put into any potential situations which may compromise the dog's health and wellbeing.13. Dogs must not be expected to mix with unfamiliar dogs.14. The volunteer and dog should be supervised and accompanied by a member of staff at all time.15. Dogs must only wear items of uniform designed for dogs, such as jackets, leads and bandanas that display the charity's log. | | |
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Initial Assessment Review Date	Risk Assessment assessed, reviewed by the following competent person:	
Name (PRINT)		Name (PRINT):
Signature:		Signature: Date:
Next Review Date:	You should review your own risk assessment: if it is no longer valid if there has been a significant change	