



Bure Valley School - Risk Assessment - School Dog (Jambo)

September 2022

Purpose

1. Dogs teach children responsibility. Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.
2. Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!
3. Dogs teach children compassion. Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.
4. Dogs teach children about socialisation. Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended).
5. Dogs are fun. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day. Many people have studied dogs in attempts to decipher their behaviour, and the theories abound. However, you just have to witness the interactions between dogs and children to realise the potential for greatness. Dogs can sense when children with epilepsy are about to have a seizure, they can sense when a diabetic child's sugar is low, and they can help children with severe physical disabilities find happiness in life. With the proper training and supervision, a dog can enrich a child's life.

Introduction

The BVS School Dog lives with our Assistant Head Teacher, Mrs Pope, and her family. His name is Jambo, his Mother is a working Cocker spaniel and his father is a standard Poodle. This makes him ½ Cocker spaniel and ½ Poodle – this mix is known as an F1 Cockapoo.

He has public liability insurance, this means he can come into school. He regularly visits the vet for check-ups and vaccinations and to make sure his flea and worm treatments are up to date. In addition to the 5 key reasons for our school dog joining us outlined in the purpose we also believe he will improve the children's abilities within the school and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels.

Dogs welfare and health

- There should be access to water all of the time, stored in a place that does not cause a hazard.
- A school dog must have flea and worming treatment prescribed by a vet.
- Annual injections should be up to date.
- An annual health vet check should be obtained.
- Jambo will be walked regularly outside of the main school day by Mrs Pope and her family.
- Jambo will undertake positive reinforcement-based training classes on a weekly basis for at least the first 18 months of his life
- The dog's owner/handler always has the final word. This must not be compromised. No decisions about the working hours or expectations of the dog should go ahead without the owners/handlers permission.
- The dog must eat in a quiet place away from staff and children.
- Only positive reward based training should be used.
- If a dog is showing signs of stress or tiredness, then s/he must be removed immediately from the situation and taken back to their quiet base until suitably rested.
- Enough space must be provided in the working area for the dog to be able to move about comfortably and lay down
- The annual "School Therapy Dog association," assessment should be taken once a year to ensure suitability remains.
- Dogs with an open wound must not be allowed to participate in any sessions.

- Injuries that occur in school should be treated appropriately in the first instance and relieved of any planned duties for the remainder of the day.
- Children with open cuts should have a covering over the wound if working alongside the dog.
- All school dogs must be neutered - when they are an appropriate age
- If a dog has had sickness or diarrhoea, then they should be clear for a period of 48 hours before returning to school.
- A canine first aid kit should be kept in school.
- Schools should ensure that they have a suitable policy in place for extreme weather conditions.
- Vet number, microchip number and emergency contact number displayed in the office.
- Jambo is part of the vets healthcare plan - which includes monthly flea and worm treatment, annual vaccinations and regular check ups.

Stages introducing dog to school

Stage	Jambo's approx. age	Where can Jambo go	Who can Jambo interact with	What is needed for Jambo to move to the next stage	Jambo's welfare considerations at this stage
1	15 weeks -12 months	When in school: Jambo will be based in Mrs Daubney or Mr Olney's offices on a Monday	Initially mainly Mr & Mrs Pope, Mrs Graveling, Mr Olney, Mrs Daubney and office staff Before and after school other staff can interact	Jambo will need to have completed puppy training, bronze, silver and gold. Jambo must no longer have puppy teeth	A base for the dog should be established with a comfortable bed. This should be a quiet office away from the children

		<p>Then in room 9¾ on a Tuesday – Friday (Tuesday Mrs Graveling will supervise him in there and Weds – Fri Mrs Pope will supervise him.</p> <p>He will have two crates one in 9¾ and the other to go between Mr Olney and Mrs Daubney's office. These will contain a bed, toys and water at all times.</p> <p>Before and after school Jambo will be allowed in any areas where there are no pupils - always with an adult.</p>	<p>with Jambo but only 1 or 2 at a time at this stage.</p>	<p>Jambo must be able to not jump up at people Jambo must be able to not lick people when told not to do so</p>	<p>and one which will not have many disturbances. A suitable toileting place should be identified, that is away from where the children play and learn. - this will be in and around the car park at the front of the main school building - but not on any areas on the route from front gate to the main school entrance at reception The handler of the dog must be available to take the dog to the toilet as and when required. The handler must not have sole responsibility of the children. Who on which days? JD and JO on Mondays JD, JO or SG on Tuesdays HP on Weds - Fri In case of fire alarm the following people will be responsible for evacuating Jambo: Monday and Tuesday - JD</p>
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					<p>Weds - Fri - HP</p> <p>Mrs Pope will teach the necessary basic commands to staff to ensure Jambo is not stressed or confused. This is to include allow Jambo to approach them at his pace not force interaction.</p>
2	12-18 months old	As above	<p>All staff but still only 2 or 3 at a time</p> <p>Children of school staff as an initial introduction to children</p>	<p>Jambo will need to pass the school therapy dog association assessment (or similar to move to stage 3)</p> <p>Dogs involved in active sessions in schools must:</p> <p>A) Be a minimum of 12 months of age</p> <p>B) Not bark, mouth, jump up at, or paw people</p> <p>C) Be adaptable to new environments and unexpected stimuli, such as new smells, objects, and sudden noises</p> <p>D) Be socially confident, enjoy human interaction, and be relaxed and calm</p>	<p>Everything from stage 1 plus:</p> <p>Mrs Pope will lead assemblies on how to interact and behave with Jambo</p> <p>Ensure Jambo does not become overwhelmed - allow time out in den if this occurs</p> <p>Ensure no more than 2 or 3 people (adults and children) are around Jambo at a time</p>

				<p>in the company of children, even when there is a level of noise and erratic behaviour around</p> <p>E) Be comfortable with appropriate physical interaction e.g. grooming, and not respond unduly negatively to unexpected lively behaviour from children</p> <p>F) Be comfortable engaging with children that may have physical/learning disabilities, and around mechanical aids e.g. wheelchairs, where relevant</p> <p>G) Exhibit no guarding of resources e.g. food/toys or avoidance behaviour</p> <p>H) Take treats gently when offered and not snatch toys from hands</p> <p>I) Be easily identifiable as a dog performing a clear role in the school</p>	
3	18 months+		Pupils determined by pastoral lead and		Everything from stages 1 and 2 plus:

			<p>other DSLs/SLT for specific therapy, reading or greeting sessions and who have correct permission from parent/guardian</p>		<p>Therapy sessions, where the dog is actively participating should be no longer than 45 minutes. The dog should be given suitable rest time between sessions.</p> <p>No more than 3 active sessions a day should be planned, where the dog is required to engage with the children.</p>
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Appendices:

- Letter to parents
- Links to other websites for research and support

School Dog Risk Assessment
ESTABLISHMENT: Bure Valley School

RA undertaken by Mrs H Pope 1st Sept 2022

Hazards <i>List significant hazards that may result in serious harm</i>	Risk <i>Indicate the level of risk</i> Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Who might be harmed? <i>List groups of people who are at risk</i>	Is the risk adequately controlled? <i>List existing controls or note where information may be found. (e.g. information, instruction training, systems or procedures)</i>	What further actions are needed to control the risk? <i>List the risks that are not adequately controlled and propose actions that are needed to reduce or eliminate the risks</i>	Outcome	What stage of introduction will this be needed from
School dog biting a child or adult	Low	Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites	The school dog is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. He lives with Mrs Pope and her family who handles him all the time to ensure that he is used to interaction with different adults and children	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way		1 for adults and 2 for children

<p>Jumping up / scratching</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that he could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark</p>	<p>The temperament of the dog and the agreed training programme involve not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful.</p>	<p>A letter will be sent home, prior to Jambo beginning to have interaction with pupils, asking parents to sign and return the form if they are unwilling for their child to have contact with the school dog. Parents will be asked to explain their wishes to their child and ask them not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact</p>		<p>1 for adults and 2 for children</p>
<p>Hurting the dog</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>If children are upset or distressed or simply unaware of how to treat</p>	<p>Adults to be aware of any child who might cause harm to the dog through rough or inappropriate conduct.</p>	<p>Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog</p>		<p>2</p>

		a dog they may injure Jambo	Expectations around the dog will be clearly articulated to all children.	without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way		
Running loose	Low	If the school dog was to run loose she could hurt children/adults or damage property	The school dog will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the door), in a cage or on a lead - (except when only adults are present in the building. During these times he will be with Mrs Pope or another designated adult under close supervision)	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective		1
Direct interaction with children/ adults	Medium	If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/ adults could be scratched	No interaction is allowed without authorisation. Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour.	Ensure that the dog is approached in the agreed manner A letter will be sent home, prior to Jambo		1 for adults and 2 for children

			Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour	beginning to have interaction with pupils, asking parents to sign and return the form if they are unwilling for their child to have contact with the school dog. Parents will be asked to explain their wishes to their child and ask them not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact		
Destruction of materials	Low	If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources which could also be harmful; to Jambo	The school dog will be contained at all times. The school dog will have his own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective		1

Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with dog	Medium	If a child/adult interact with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dogs training and have a negative impact on future interaction	Agreed guidelines (HP to explain these to staff as new elements are learned by her and Jambo through training) that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog. There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped		1
Use of rewards / treats	Low	Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat. Children/adults must clean their hands	Alcohol gel will be available to all adults (and children with written permission from parents). Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation	Reminders to the children to wash hands / use alcohol gel after handling treats. Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation		1 for adults and 2 for children

		after handling treat				
Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with a puppy / dog	Medium	If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to the school dog or themselves	The Dog's Trust will be visiting each year group to conduct a 'Be Dog Smart' course with all of the children	There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the Jambo		1 for adults and 2 for children
Worms / fleas	Low	If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans. Fleas and worms can be harmful to humans and animals	Jambo will be treated monthly at a local vets to ensure he is correctly treated for worms and fleas This will be the responsibility of Mrs Pope.	Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet		1
Faeces	Low	If a child/adult	The school dog will	If a child finds		1

		<p>come into contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred</p>	<p>only be walked under supervision. No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces, this will always be undertaken by the adult in supervision - using a 'poo-bag'</p> <p>It is possible that during the first half term there might be toileting accidents in school. These will be cleaned up following our normal procedures.</p>	<p>faeces on the School field/playground they will report it to an adult</p> <p>Adults will sanitise their hands after picking up faeces and dispose of the bag in the bins external to the front of the school building</p>		
Allergies	Medium	<p>If a child or adult is allergic to dogs they could become unwell if they come into contact with Jambo</p>	<p>Children will not be in contact with the school dog if we have received a negative response form from parents/guardians. If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child</p>			1

Anxiety around dogs	Low	If a child or adult is anxious about interactions with dogs they may become distressed or panicked if they come into contact with Jambo	<p>Children will not be in contact with the school dog if we have received a negative response form from parents/guardians. If a child has a dog related anxiety the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child</p> <p>If the parent and child would like to work with Jambo to help relieve this anxiety this will be arranged with Mrs Pope, the child and parent and will take place under close supervision and in short structured sessions.</p>	A letter will be sent home, prior to Jambo beginning to have interaction with pupils, asking parents to sign and return the form if they are unwilling for their child to have contact with the school dog. Parents will be asked to explain their wishes to their child and ask them not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact		1 for adults 2 for children
Children's access to school dog's resource	Low	If a child has access to the school dog's treats/food and eats some they could become	All of the school dog's resources will be locked away. No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without	Remind children not to enter area		2

		unwell	authorisation and without the company of an authorised adult			
Contact with food preparation areas	Trivial	If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	Jambo will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school - (except when only adults are present in the building. During these times he will be with Mrs Pope or another designated adult under close supervision) He will never enter the school kitchen			1
Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	Low	If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog	Remind children and adults to clean their hands		1
Walking the dog on and off the site	Medium	Children could be harmed during a walk	If the school dog is taken off site normal risk assessment procedure	Careful consideration needs to be given		3

		<p>offsite if they are not focussed. Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk</p>	<p>will take place. No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by accompanying adults. No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when he is on a walk unless permission is given</p>	<p>to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes</p>		
Visits to classroom	Medium	<p>If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure he may become over excited</p>	<p>The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with Mrs Pope The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop</p>	<p>Careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms and be under the control of the class teacher or teaching assistant</p>		3
Being fed	Low	<p>If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating he may respond</p>	<p>No child will be allowed in the school dog's contained area when he is eating. Children may prepare</p>	<p>Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when he is eating</p>		3

		aggressively	the food for the school dog (washing their hands afterwards). All feeding will be supervised Jambo will not be eating his main meals at school - only treats			
School events	Low	If the school dog is overwhelmed he may become aggressive or boisterous	Jambo will only attend school events if they are appropriate and he will be under the control of a supervising adult	Monitor the school dog's reaction to school events. If the school events are too overwhelming the school dog might not attend school on that day		3
Other dogs (on and off the site)	Low	If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous	No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises At no time will the school dog be walked by a child and as a result if another dog is seen this will be dealt with by the	Monitor the school dog's reaction when out walking		1

			<p>supervising adult Jambo's training will include work on reactivity to other dogs, if this becomes necessary</p>			
<p>School emergency evacuation (including drills)</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The dog could become distressed by the evacuation and behave in an unexpected way, e.g. become defensive or try to escape. The dog could be left behind as adults are assisting pupils to leave the building</p>	<p>The school dog is accompanied by a trained adult at all times. In the event of an emergency evacuation, immediately proceed to the nearest fire exit and then the adult walks as far as possible from other people evacuating whilst maintaining a safe distance from the building. Where possible, the school dog to be present for sounding of the alarms outside of school hours to observe their response.</p>	<p>Ensure Jambo is added to our fire evacuation procedure documentation</p>		

			If the dog manages to escape from an adult during the evacuation, the adult must still evacuate immediately and notify staff outside of the dog's absence.			
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Appendix 1

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14ITOk_he7AfOMfvjiRF3GWTrrng6A4JcLtVYW251tbE/edit

Appendix 2

<https://www.schooltherapydog.com/>

<https://kidsarounddogs.co.uk/>

<https://www.momenttopaws.co.uk/can-my-dog-be-a-therapy-dog/>

<http://tdn.org.uk/>

[Guardian Article - 'Dogs Listen to Children's Reading'](#)