



Dachshund Therapy – Port Macquarie

Never Felt Better - Jean Ballands

Risk management plan

Name of workplace:		Name of dachshund Group leader: Jean Ballands				
Risk assessment focus: Dog on school grounds for educational purposes and emotional support						
Location / Activity	Hazard Identification Type / Cause	Current Controls	Risk matrix score	Elimination or Control Measures	Who	When
Work health and safety research completed	Insufficient research Unidentified Risk Insufficient strategies in place	Thorough research Comprehensive risk assessment Clear and documented procedures Comprehensive plans in place	5	Refer Catholic Education Lismore Diocese - Contact with animals, overview and key steps - NSW Public Health information - Animals in schools welfare guidelines - Training requirements Identify similar programs being run in schools and discuss with organisers (regarding risk assessments, requirements)	Dog Owner	Prior to introduction to school Ongoing updating of risk assessment and updated policies

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Compliance, training and behaviour management requirement to be met.	Appropriate approvals not in place Disobedience leading to incident (e.g. failure to leave area of escalation, eating something they shouldn't leading to illness)	Checklist of desired known commands. Recognised Behavioural training of puppy and handler -	4	Animals in Schools Welfare Guidelines followed. The dogs will undergo significant familiarisation to the school environment and undertake obedience training	Dog Handlers	Prior to introduction to school and Continual training regarding obedience
Students/Staff approaching the dog	Dog pulls away Dog reacts aggressively Dog jumps up	Plan communicated to staff via email and staff meetings. Temperament checked prior to introduction to school Program created for dog in school	4	A program created to educate students about approaching dog and behavioural indicators they might see if the dog does not want to be approached or is unsettled. Dogs to be approached from the front of the dog with the person interacting gently holding their hand out in front of them for dog to smell. Handlers always present that students work with the dogs. Dogs to be on leads when moving about the school. Dogs to be easily identified as a therapy dog by wearing a distinct vest, collar or lead.	Dog Handlers	Plan communicated before dog is introduced to school. Whenever dog is at school.

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Dog resting	Startled dog reacts in an unpredictable way	Safe areas for dog to rest Plan communicated to staff via email and staff meetings	4	Dogs to rest in appropriate areas of the library or classroom Students to be supervised when with the dog and not to wake or startle the dogs All interactions between dog and students must be supervised	Dog Handlers	At all times
Dog Toileting	Hygiene Stressed Dog	Dog taken on a lead to use specific area to toilet	4	All solid bowel movements picked up in plastic bag and hands washed. Bag to be disposed of appropriately. Dog be provided with the opportunity to go to the toilet in a quiet area in the school away from students. Responsible adult to take dog for toilet break.	Dog Handlers	Immediately
Dog moving about the school	Dog startled or spooked – leading to incident Dog jumps Dog refuses to go where intended	Training involved at school and home to create clear expectations for dog	4	Dogs to remain on harness/lead at all times when moving about the school. Dogs to be let off lead in designated areas only, once obedience is established Dogs to be led (not dragged) If reluctant to move, will need to investigate reason. Stop, settle the dog with reassurance and pats, then move on.	Dog Handlers	At all times
Students/Staff handling dog	Hygiene issues.	Trained not to lick faces Wash hands after	4	Soap and water available with in the library or classroom	Any persons handling the	At all times

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	Dirty hands Dog licking	interacting with dog		Hand sanitiser available Encouraged to wash hands after handling the dog	dog.	
Students/Staff interacting with the dog (Play)	Dog gets overexcited during play – scratches or catches person with nails or teeth	Comprehensive behaviour training to avoid incident Play to be terminated if dog becomes over-excited Play supervised at all times Wash hands after interacting with dog	4	Initially access to games with students and dogs are restricted. Games such as run through the tunnel may be played in safe, designated space. Supervision at all times First aid immediately available in case of incident	Dog handlers First aid officer	At all times
Allergies	Significant allergic reaction to dogs	Parent/carer/school community notified and any allergies noted. If staff – plan in place to keep them away from dog. If student – analysis of allergies as previously notified by parent/carer Health care plan followed First aid available	5	Clear signing in and out of dog presence daily Specific locations dog allowed to visit & dog not allowed to visit. E.g. dog allowed on verandas, dog not allowed in staff room. Areas clearly communicated to all staff/students Students/staff with significant allergies to work in separate areas of school to the dog. Appropriate medical treatments present and available. Dog to always remain on lead outside of designated areas.	Any persons with allergies to animals	At all times

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Fear of Dogs	Cause unpredictable behaviour in staff or students due to fear	All parties notified and any fears noted and managed accordingly with discussion Dog to be with a handler at all times Dogs to be restricted in terms of areas allowed	4	Education around understanding dog behaviour If a member of staff and/or student identifies with having a fear of dogs, they are to be supported and plans put in place to remove discomfort and/or contact with the dog	All people interacting with dog	At all times

Relevant additional information reviewed and attached:

Yes

Plan prepared by: Jean Ballands

Position: Leader and teacher of the Dachshund Therapy Group

Date: 21/2/2023

Prepared in consultation with: Suzanne Penson

Communicated to: All

Monitor and Review: Monitor the effectiveness of controls and change if necessary. Review the risk assessment if an incident or a significant change occurs.