THE BUCHAN SCHOOL KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE

King William's College, The Buchan School & The Buchan Nursery

Pets in School Policy

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1.0 Introduction

King William's College and the Buchan School (the School) recognises that in some controlled circumstances the presence of pets on site can be beneficial to the well-being of pupils and staff, increasing their understanding of responsibility and developing empathy and nurturing skills. The development of these skills is a key part of the School's personal, health and social education curriculum. They also provide benefits for children taking enjoyment from interaction with pets and other animals. They can be an important part of life for many families and are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from the School. Members of staff who are resident on site may also choose to own pets, which therefore spend most of their time within the school boundaries.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for staff, pupils, parents, visitors and contractors regarding pets on the campus for the following purposes:

- Accompanying parents/guardians whilst dropping off and picking up their children;
- Pets living in residential accommodation;
- Staff, visitors and contractors;

However, pet owners must be aware that pets are potentially dangerous and may also be a health hazard. They must also be mindful of the fact that some children and adults do not like pets and may be afraid of, or allergic to them.

It is envisioned that on some occasions, pets will be brought onto the premises. On these, as on any other occasions, as a school, the welfare of the students, staff and visitors is paramount.

Dogs may be brought into School by outside agencies for example Guide Dogs for the Blind, Police, Pets as Therapy and rescue charities from time to time.

2.0 Risk of Pets on the Campus

The School recognises that there are risks in allowing pets onto the campus, including biting incidents, barking dogs which may frighten children and hazards to health such as Toxocariasis. Parents and staff may understandably have concerns regarding pets on the campus.

It is the School's aim to control risks by asking staff, parents, guardians, visitors and contractors to follow some simple rules, exercise common sense and encourage sensible behaviour of pupils around pets.

3.0 Legislation

The School is required to comply with all legislation including, and not limited to, the Health and Safety at Work Act 1977 and the Health and Safety at Work Order 1998. This legislation establishes the standards that must be met to ensure the health and safety of all employees and others (students, parents, guardians, contractors and visitors) who may be affected by any school activity and are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive.

4.0 Bringing Pets on to the School Campus

The School has no jurisdiction regarding dogs walked through the School grounds using the public footpath. Anyone bringing a dog on to the campus must ensure that they are on a lead, supervised at all times and controlled so that it does not jump up at people.

Any pupil interaction with the pets must be properly supervised by the owner. Pupils must never to be left alone in charge of the pet, unless permission is given by parents or guardians to do so and they are able to adequately control the pet.

Owners are responsible for their pets at all times and must ensure that any fouling is cleared up immediately and effectively.

Pet owners must take proper preventative treatments against worms, fleas, ticks etc.

Dogs must be kept on leads and should not present a traffic hazard

Pets must be clean and have up to date vaccinations.

Pet owners who bring their pet/s on campus must have valid third-party liability insurance and accept that they will be wholly liable for any accident for which the pet/s is/are responsible while on the School campus. School staff are entitled to ask for evidence of such insurance policies at any time.

Thought should be given to the environment that the animal has been brought up in. Large numbers of children could cause a pet to become nervous, agitated. Pets displaying any warning signs that they are becoming agitated must be immediately removed from the environment by the adult in charge of the pet.

Aggressive dogs, or those with a history of aggression, must not be brought on to the campus.

Dogs with young puppies (those under the age of eight weeks) should not be brought on to the School site as there is a risk of the mother becoming over protective, which may cause them to act out of character.

Contractors may not bring a dog onto the campus unless specifically permitted to do so by the Estates Manager.

If any staff member observes a rule being flouted, they are to remind pet owners of these rules at the first opportunity.

The School reserves the right to request that a pet be removed from their premises immediately, should it be causing any kind of nuisance, without recourse to lengthy explanations. In these instances, owners must remove their pets without delay.

5.0 Walking or Exercising Pets on Campus

The School sports fields and play areas must not be used for the purposes of exercising dogs. Dogs are not permitted on the sports pitch playing areas or designated children's playing areas. Staff and visitors should not bring their pets into the Barrovian Hall, classrooms or communal areas, including staff common rooms. Some staff and pupils may have allergies or feel uncomfortable in the presence of animals. Hygiene may be compromised by the presence of animals. Public footpaths around the School can be used to walk dogs.

6.0 Pets belonging to Staff

Pets owned by staff should not normally be present when teaching or undertaking other supervisory duties.

As a school, we request that pets are not brought onto site with the intention to be left during the school day in a car in order to best protect the welfare of the pet.

Staff resident in school property are expected to ensure their pets are house trained and to do all they can to prevent pets from causing damage to school property. When pets have been in residence, staff are responsible for the professional cleaning of carpets when they leave. If there is an unacceptable degree of damage, staff will be required to make a contribution to the replacement of carpets or redecoration of the property when they vacate the property.
Staff resident in boarding houses are responsible for briefing all new members of the House about their pets. This briefing should take account of the following two issues in particular:

a) Those unused to pets (perhaps from a cultural perspective) should be reassured and given guidelines how best to react.

b) If the pet has any particular habits or behaviour that is likely to cause concerns to pupils or visitors unless they are aware, these should be made clear, with sufficient guidance given to avoid problems.

The School reserves the right to request that a pet be removed from their accommodation immediately, should it be causing any kind of nuisance, without recourse to lengthy explanations. In these instances, owners must remove their dogs without delay

7.0 Educational On/Off-Site Visits

A risk assessment will be undertaken prior to any dog being brought into the classroom, for example, for promotion of a charity.

Students will not have unsupervised access to any dog and will be told how to behave around dogs and handle safely.

Where the School has been informed that a pupil has an allergy, they will be kept away from the dog as appropriate.

Students will wash their hands thoroughly after handing the dog.

There are occasions when the presence of staff-owned dogs on educational off-site visits such as hiking trips, may enhance the experience for the pupils and staff alike. This is at the discretion of the visit leader and the member of staff responsible for approving that risk assessment. In these circumstances sensible provision must be made to transport the dog.

8.0 Risk Assessment

LIKELIHOOD (A)		HAZARD RATING (B)	
Most unlikely	1	Trivial injury/ies	1
Unlikely	2	Minor injury/ies	2
Possible	3	Major injury/ies	3
Likely	4	Major injury/ies to several people	4
Most Likely	5	Single death	5
Certain	6	Multiple deaths	6

RISK RATING	CLASSIFICATION	ACTION REQUIRED
1 - 3	MINIMAL RISK	Keep control measures under review
4 - 6	LOW RISK	Fine tune control measures
8 - 10	MEDIUM RISK	Control measures to be improved
12 - 36	HIGH RISK	Consider stopping activity until control measures have been completed

POTENTIAL HAZARDS	WHO IS AFFECTED?	A x B		C	CONTROL MEASURES TO MINIMISE THE RISK	STATE ANY FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED TO CONTROL THE RESIDUAL RISK (INCLUDING SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT, PPE ETC)	BY WHOM	DATE COMPLETED
		Likelihood	Hazard Rating	(AxB) Risk				
Pet biting a pupil or adult Pupil or adult being hurt if the pet dog bites	Staff Pupils Visitors	3	2	6	Aggressive dogs are not permitted on the school campus. Pets are not permitted when teaching or undertaking supervisory duties Pupils are ordinarily not to be left unaccompanied with pets.	pupils will not interact with pets without supervision by the pet owner guidelines and expectations will be agreed by pupils and staff to ensure that interaction with any pets is completed in the agreed way Staff owners must ensure that they have appropriate public liability insurance for their pet	SLC	08/23
Jumping up and scratching Danger that at pet could jump up and knock over a pupil or leave a scratch mark	Staff Pupils Visitors	2	1	2	Pets are not permitted when teaching or undertaking supervisory duties Pupils are ordinarily not to be left unaccompanied with pets.	pupils will not interact with pets without supervision by the pet owner guidelines and expectations will be agreed by pupils and staff to ensure that interaction with any pets is completed in the agreed way dogs must be kept on a lead when on school site. Staff owners must ensure that they have appropriate public liability insurance for their pet	SLC	08/23

Running Loose If a dog was to run loose they could injure pupils, adults, damage property or cause an accident	Staff Pupils Visitors	2	2	4	Pets are the responsibility of the staff owners who must ensure that appropriate controls are in place Dogs must be kept on a lead when outside on school site or in the presence of the pupils		SLC	08/23
Direct interaction with pupils and staff	Staff Pupils Visitors	3	2	6	Pets are the responsibility of the staff owners and they must keep control of their animals No unaccompanied interaction with pupils is permitted without the agreement of parents Interaction will be cancelled if the pet shows signs of incorrect behaviour or is unwell Reward/praise will be given to reinforce desired behaviour	Ensure that pupils are correctly briefed on how to approach the pet. Emotional wellbeing of the pet and the pupils to be considered at all times.	SLC	08/23
Phobias	Staff Pupils Visitors	3	1	3	Pupils and adults will not have contact with pets without the supervision of the staff owner	Pets must be under the control and responsibility of the staff owner	SLC	08/23
Destruction of materials or damage to property	School property or resources	3	1	3	Pets must be under appropriate control from their owners Dogs should have their own toys to play with and should not have access to normal school resources	Resident staff must ensure that equipment used to contain pets if monitored, is appropriate and effective. When moving out of staff accommodation, staff must ensure that carpets are cleaned. Any damage to the property may incur a contribution charge towards the repair.	SLC	08/23
Incorrect or inconsistent interaction with a pet	Pet	3	2	6	Pets are the responsibility of their owners and agreed guidelines must be followed at all times. No interaction with pets without authorisation by the owner	If there are inconsistencies in the interactions, the interaction will stop Emotional wellbeing or pupils and pets to be considered at all times	SLC	08/23
Use of rewards or treats Pupils and adults could be harmed if a pet is over excited when receiving a reward or treat	Staff Pupils Visitors	2	2	4	Pupils and adults to clean their hands after handling treats Treats to be provided by the pet owner Treats only to be given under the supervision and the permission of the pet owner	Reminder to pupils to wash hands or hand sanitizer after handling treats.	SLC	08/23

Pupils or staff interaction with a pet on school site If there is limited knowledge of how to interact correctly, this could result in harm to the pet or themselves	Staff Pupils Visitors	2	2	4	Briefing given to pupils before interaction. Emotional wellbeing of students and pets to be considered as a primary concern.	Interaction with a pet to be agreed and supervised by the owner	SLC	08/23
Worms/Fleas If the pet is not treated for worms or fleas there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans	Staff Pupils Visitors Pet	2	2	4	Pets who are brought onto school site must be fully vaccinated and have the correct treatment for worms and fleas		SLC	08/23
Faeces If a pupil or adult comes into contact with pet faeces, some germs could be transferred	Staff Pupils Visitors	2	3	6	Dogs must be kept on lead when on school site Pet owners must clear up after their pet	Pupils should report to an adult if they find faeces on school property Faeces will be disposed of correctly Pets that are unwell must be kept at home	SLC	08/23
Allergies Some people are allergic to certain animals	Staff Pupils Visitors	2	3	6	Pet owners must check the allergy list before allowing interaction	If there are concerns about a pupil, the staff owners must keep their pet away	SLC	08/23
Pupil access to pet resources If a pupil has access to pet treats or pet food, they could become unwell	Pupils	2	2	4	Pet resources, treats and food must be kept away from the pupils	Pupils do not have access to staff areas	SLC	08/23