

Yanchep Rise PS Dog Policy



RATIONAL

The aim of this project is to improve wellbeing for students. This will be achieved through improving socialising skills and self-awareness skills that are a part of the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies. These competencies are linked to Western Australian Curriculum standards and it is expected that all teachers cover these learning outcomes and are able to assess them, as per expectations related to the entire WA Curriculum.

BACKGROUND

Coco is a Labradoodle who has been part of a school community since she was 12 weeks old. Coco has settled into the classroom extremely well surpassing all of our expectations, generally remaining calm and watching the children go about their daily learning tasks. Coco has been an incredible asset to the classroom calming the classes to a point where daily learning is noticeably more settled. Coco has additionally assisted students in entering school for the day who were displaying signs of distress and calmed children who have been hurt or upset in the schoolyard. Coco has a natural ability to neutralise and distract students who may be feeling upset for a variety of reasons.

All students and staff were involved in Dog Awareness Training provided by the RSPCA in preparation for Coco's interaction with students. She has been slowly integrated into class, commencing with the senior block and short periods of time in junior classes. Coco has a "safe zone" when unleashed in a class, giving her the opportunity to rest and be away from students at periods of time.

RISKS OF HAVING A DOG IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

This policy covers all aspects of having a dog in a school environment; careful management abiding by this policy ensures there is a very low risk of harm.

CONTEXT

- Dog is owned by Principal, Helen Demiris
- Vet costs and general expenses are paid by the owner
- Dog is a Labradoodle, he has been chosen for his temperament, intelligence and his hypoallergenic non-moulting coat
- Dog will be based in the Administration building
- All students will be educated on dog management
- Visitors to school will be informed of Dog at the school reception

DAILY MANAGEMENT OF DOG

- Not allowed in school if unwell
- Will be kept on lead when moving between classrooms
- Be under the supervision of staff
- Continue to be trained in obedience, including release time inside the school grounds
- Be up to date with all vaccinations, worming and grooming
- Will have a safe area inside the classroom and outside the classroom
- Dog will wear bright harness to ensure he is recognised as a therapy support dog

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Will not have sole responsibility for Dog
- Will be reminded of appropriate behaviours around Dog with each contact
- Will always be reminded to respect Dog and remain calm around him at all times
- Be gentle and not make sudden movements or attempts at physical contact to Dog
- Not to stare into Dog's eyes
- Not to put their face near Dog

- Always approach Dog standing
- Always approach Dog in a calm slow manner
- Do not disturb Dog while eating, drinking or sleeping
- Never to feed Dog
- Continue beneficial learning into Dog's development
- Demonstrate collaboration of Dog's role with the whole school community, including; staff, parents, students, family member

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- All persons should always wash their hands after handling Dog
- Any dog excrement to be cleaned and disposed of appropriately by Principal or designated monitor
- Where possible - external gates to the school to remained closed at all times while Dog is on site

IF DOG IS HURT OR INJURED (ACCIDENT OR BY STUDENT)

- Dog will be removed by Principal calmly from the situation if required
- Dog to be moved to his safe area
- Principal to take Dog to the Vet if required, Wanneroo Animal Hospital
- Parents informed if harm caused by student
- Follow up investigating by Principal

INCIDENT PROTOCOLS

- Principal to be notified immediately, documentation required
- Parents to be notified immediately
- Seek medical attention if required
- Inform all staff of the incident via email
- A full investigation from Principal

SUPPORT FOR POLICY

- Lead the Way (therapy dog training) - <http://www.ltw.com.au/>
- Assistance Dogs Australia (advice and training) <https://www.assisteddogs.org.au/>
- Vet – Wanneroo Animal Hospital 923 Wanneroo Rd, Wanneroo WA 6065, 9405 1122