



TotalTuition



ROSEWOOD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

*Rosewood Independent School is a trading name of Total Tuition Limited.  
This policy covers all students at Total Tuition Alternative Provision and Rosewood Independent School.*

## Therapy Dogs Risk Assessment

The benefit of therapy dogs in educational settings can be seen in many research studies. It has been proven that the presence of a companion animal can improve the well-being of children, and can lower anxiety rates. Therapy dogs can also make a happier, more enjoyable, and less forbidding environment.

Therapy Dogs have been proven to:

- Lower stress levels.
- Calming effect on students and teachers.
- Provide comfort and affection.
- Reduced blood pressure, physical stimulation, and assist in pain management.
- Promote self-esteem.
- Stimulate memory and problem-solving skills.
- Offer a companion to children with social and emotional problems, including anxiety.
- Enable children to work through issues such as anger management and/or bullying tendencies.

To minimise the risk to children at the Total Tuition Alternative Provision / Rosewood Independent School centre, only animals pre-approved by Management are accepted on school premises. The only exception to this rule are assistant animals, such as dogs for the blind.

If any parent or pupil objects to the animal's presence then arrangements must be made to ensure that this animal is kept away from them. If necessary, the animal may need exclusion from specific areas.

### **Total Tuition Alternative Provision / Rosewood Independent School Therapy Dog**

Rosewood Independent School will regularly have a Therapy Dog on site. The decision to include this in our business model was to provide a pet that the children could interact with, and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development.

- The Therapy Dogs have been familiarised with attendance at the site from 2 months of age.
- Rosewood Independent School Management ensure a background check on the temperament and health history of the puppy, including ensuring the dogs are of good pedigree.
- The Therapy Dogs will be purchased from a reputable breeder.
- The Therapy Dogs will live with Rosewood Independent School Management as a family pet outside of their time in the school.
- The Therapy Dogs will be registered with a local veterinarian, and health checked on a regular basis.
- The Therapy Dogs will be kept up to date with immunisations, including rabies. Worming treatments will be in line with European vet guidelines. A copy of the annual health check will be kept with Rosewood Independent School Management, and viewable upon request. Please note that this may take a few days to source, as it will be requested from the veterinary practise.

- The Therapy Dogs will be discouraged from biting, scratching, and licking.
- The Therapy Dogs will be clean of mud and outdoor mess before interacting with children.
- The Therapy Dogs will be taken for natural relief before interacting with children.
- The Therapy Dogs will be kept clean and well groomed, and checked regularly for sign of infection or other illness.
- If the Therapy Dogs becomes ill at any point, they should be diagnosed and treated by a vet, and not allowed in the Rosewood Independent School Centre until health is restored.
- The Therapy Dogs will have their claws trimmed regularly.
- The Therapy Dogs will be exercised prior to interaction with children.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the puppy is invited to write to inform Rosewood Independent School of their wishes.

This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and Rosewood Independent School Management will evaluate the impact of a Therapy Dogs on a regular bases.

### Risk Assessment

Hazard	Risk	Risk 1-5 *	Likelihood 1-5*	Controls in place	Review date & signed
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child knocked to ground	1	2	The dogs will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises.	January 2018  August 2019  June 2020  "
	Child scratched by Dog	3	2	Children are not left with the dogs unsupervised.	
	Child bitten by Dog	4	2	The dogs will always be on a lead when she is out of his pen/ the Management office, except when he is undergoing structured training with his primary trainer/s or if parental consent has been gained. If the dogs are not on their lead in the office, visitors will be given a warning on entry and the dogs will be returned to the pen if required.  The dogs will be trained not to jump up or lick the children.  Pupils have been, and continue to be, taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children within	

				<p>the school.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dogs from chasing them. (i.e. stand still, cross arms)</p> <p>The dogs will undergo conditioning to the schools classroom environment when possible, this area of training will allow future reading or nurture intervention to involve the school dogs in a calming/therapeutic manner.</p> <p>Risk of scratching and licking will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as the dogs progress through their training.</p> <p>ALL staff will be introduced to the dogs and the expectations (does and don't) of having a school dog.</p> <p>The dogs will attend the vets' regularly to make sure their claws are kept short and that they are in good health.</p>	
The dog gets loose from his pen or from his lead.	As above	1	2	<p>The dog pen is big enough for them to be happy and safe during the day and the children are taught not to tease.</p> <p>If the dogs do get loose from the pen, the staff on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dogs back in their pen.</p> <p>The primary trainer of the dog is: Jennifer Wood</p>	<p>January 2018</p> <p>June 2020</p>
Dog hair causing allergies	Children have allergic reactions	1	1	<p>Homeschools/ local authority/ and/or parents/guardians have been asked to inform the Centre of any known allergies prior to introduction of the dog to the school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on school records.</p> <p>Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of</p>	<p>January 2018</p> <p>June 2020</p>

				<p>interaction.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.</p>	
Children getting germs from the dog.	Children/s taff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs	1	1	<p>Should the dogs defecate on the school site, a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. The dogs will be trained to toilet in an area of the school that our pupil's don't have access to on a regular basis, if required the area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.</p> <p>All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at 6-8 weekly intervals.</p> <p>Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 6 monthly intervals.</p> <p>The dogs will stay within their pen at meal times; they will not be permitted into the area in which food is consumed.</p>	
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills	1	1	<p>The dogs are the responsibility of Jennifer Wood, she is financially responsible for all her care and day to day costs.</p> <p>The dogs are the responsibility of Jennifer Wood outside of school hours</p> <p>As the dogs will be used for therapy work within the school, the school will accommodate costs towards training and assessment of the dog to meet these criteria.</p>	<p>January 2018</p> <p>June 2020</p>
Claim is made against Rosewood Independent School re: behaviour of the	School not adequately covered	4	1	<p>Jennifer Wood insures the dog.</p> <p>The certificate is available on request and is renewed annually.</p>	January 2018

dog.					June 2020
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KEY: 1- Low risk 23 -Medium risk of injury 45-High risk of injury

Martha is a registered therapy dog through Canine Concern. Nellie is undergoing training and will complete assessment at 9 months of age.

**Policy:**

Jennifer Wood, Centre Director (Total Tuition)

Created: August 2018

Date reviewed: August 2019 (Total Tuition)

Updated: June 2020 (Rosewood Independent School)

Next review: June 2020