



## 'Reading with Dogs' & Educational Visit Risk Assessment

It is important to note that educational establishments we work with may not all wish us to resume our visits. Equally, the visiting service may be suspended at any time should there be a renewed wave of the virus or in line with the Scottish Government Coronavirus guidelines.

Hazard	Description of potential accident / injury / loss	Who is at Risk	Action Taken	Risk Rating	Hazards/Risks that remain and/or will require monitoring
Spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus	<p>Potential of virus transfer via air transfer e.g., cough, sneeze; via surface transfer e.g., door handles, chairs, dog fur/lead/collar</p> <p>Note this guidance has been in place since 2021 and may be subject to change, however, with the increase in any type of virus (especially in winter), of which Covid-19 is but one, it is prudent to leave it and follow measures as deemed appropriate.</p>	Volunteers, Staff, School Pupils, other school visitors	<p>Hand hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stringent hand sanitisation to take place immediately before, frequently during and after activity</li> <li>Volunteer may use own hand sanitiser, but plenty is provided on site</li> <li>Volunteer must not allow pupils to use their personal hand sanitiser in case of allergy</li> <li>Drying of hands on disposable paper towels</li> <li>Everyone who touches the Therapet should sanitise/wash hands immediately before and after.</li> </ul> <p>Social Distancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All people involved follow Scottish Government Guidelines</li> <li>Therapet and volunteer will only visit <b>ONE</b> school/institution per day to prevent transfer between different environments</li> <li>Volunteer should minimise the number of surfaces they contact during their visit</li> <li>Volunteer should remain in areas that school has dedicated for visiting</li> </ul> <p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leads and collars should be fabric where possible, they should be cleaned if touched by a service user after each visit by washing at 40oc. Where this is not possible e.g., leather handles or chained leads, they could be washed with saddle or glycerine soap</li> </ul> <p>Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face Coverings may be worn for indoor activities and washed or disposed of after every visit</li> </ul>	Medium	<p>The virus will always be present. We recommend volunteers receive vaccination and follow all Scottish Government guidelines. Those unable to be vaccinated may be limited in their options for visiting due to requirements of places visited.</p> <p>Volunteers will only visit as and when they are comfortable that the precautionary measures are in place and will take all steps to ensure they follow all necessary guidelines from the Scottish Government and NHS to safeguard themselves and minimise the risk of infection to themselves and others.</p> <p>If there are any localised outbreaks, all visits will be suspended and if a localised lockdown is in place volunteers will follow the protocol. In the event of any doubt, visits will not take place.</p> <p>Volunteers will limit the number of different places they visit with their Therapet to avoid spreading the virus.</p> <p>Volunteers who are unwell with symptoms of Covid-19 will follow NHS guidance on isolation and testing.</p> <p>In some premises, particularly NHS settings, volunteers will be required to use disposable medical face masks, and these are usually provided on site.</p> <p>Volunteers to use private transport where possible to attend visits and if/when using public transport to follow Scottish Government, NHS, and transport operator guidelines.</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer should consider how they will get to/from the visit and any implications with using public transport</li> <li>• The Therapet should not be petted by other pupils/staff etc on the way to the session</li> <li>• Volunteers may be required to undertake health &amp; safety training at the school if there is a concern of virus transfer so should contact them to discuss</li> </ul> <p>Ventilation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any indoor area used should have adequate ventilation</li> </ul>		<p>Some visits may take place outdoors or in large covered outdoor areas depending on weather and participant needs.</p> <p>Volunteers should not walk the Therapet through the playground during breaks to minimise contact and should try to avoid lesson change over where there is significant movement of people around the building.</p> <p>If full PPE is required for more specialist schools, consideration needs to be made of whether it is safe to proceed with visit.</p> <p>Number of people in the room at any one time may need to be monitored or venue changed if ventilation is limited.</p>
Allergy to PPE	Volunteer may be required to wear PPE issued by place visited. Some latex gloves may cause allergies	Volunteer	Volunteer advised to check this in advance of visit and try on gloves if necessary.	Low	Volunteer may need to take their own gloves if necessary following discussion with school.
General injury to humans (Examples given are not exhaustive)	<p>Possible injury/bite from Therapet</p> <p>Trip/fall from dog lead or dog lying down</p> <p>Risk to pupil wellbeing/mental health from either Therapet or handler</p> <p>Risk of bacterial transfer</p>	<p>Pupils, Staff, School Visitors</p> <p>Pupils, Staff, School Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Therapets have been formally assessed for temperament and are considered highly unlikely to bite</li> <li>• All Therapets working with children have been reassessed as to their suitability after minimum one year working with adults</li> <li>• All dogs will be handled by their owner or an approved handler who are fully experienced in such situations and will guide anyone that wish to meet the dogs appropriately</li> <li>• All volunteers working with children have had their PVG updated to working with adults &amp; children</li> <li>• All Therapets also benefit from full Public Liability Insurance</li> <li>• A third party must be present with the volunteer and Therapet; they must not be left unaccompanied with a pupil</li> <li>• The session should take place in a separate room to that of the main classroom to reduce distractions</li> <li>• All Therapets are required to be fed a non-raw food diet and owners sign to confirm</li> </ul>	Low	<p>Low risk remains. Monitored by organiser/volunteers.</p> <p>Any Therapets who are unwell will not attend visits to prevent injury that may be caused by to a reaction to pain or discomfort.</p> <p>Volunteers continue to be monitored by the CEO and Board as the charity is notified if anything arose that would affect their PVG status.</p> <p>Third party would ideally be a teacher/Pupil Support Worker/staff member but may also be a parent/volunteer approved by the school.</p>

# Canine Concern Scotland Trust incorporating Therapet®



Hazard	Description of potential accident / injury / loss	Who is at Risk	Action Taken	Risk Rating	Hazards/Risks that remain and/or will require monitoring
General injury to Therapet	<b>Indoor</b> – e.g., leg injury on stairs, trap injury to tail/head/paw in doors, dehydration. <b>Outdoor</b> – e.g., trip injury, muscle strain, dehydration, heatstroke, bite or sting, allergy	Therapet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Therapets always kept on a lead and under the control of their handler</li> <li>Organiser to ensure area for the activity is easily accessible for the dog and drinking water is provided.</li> <li>Organiser to provide water and shade for outdoor events</li> <li>Social distancing rules in the school must be less than 2m to ensure the Therapet's safety on a short lead</li> </ul>	Low	There will always be a risk entering or leaving a building or changing location within a building. Volunteer to monitor and make appropriate suggestions to organiser. For outdoor events, volunteer to monitor wellbeing of the dog.
Dog Faeces	Diseases and/or illness e.g., Toxocariasis, Campylobacter, Toxoplasmosis, Ringworm Salmonella, Giardia and Cryptosporidium,	Pupils, Staff, Volunteer, School Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All volunteers of Therapets will ensure they clean up effectively after their dogs</li> <li>All volunteers of Therapets will be reminded to remove all animal waste from the site.</li> </ul>	Very Low	Very Low risk or hazard remaining as any excrement will have been removed. Monitored by organiser / volunteers. All Therapets are expected to be up to date with annual vaccinations, worming and flea treatment
Allergy/or dog phobia/fear	Possible reaction to Therapet due to allergy and/or fear of dogs	Pupils, Staff, School Visitors	School will inform everyone on site and pupils prior to event. Posters can be put up. Area allocated for event to minimize human traffic from non-participants.	Low	Low risk remains when dogs are entering or leaving the building.

**Assessed by:** CEO

**Approved by:** Chair Therapet Committee

**Activity:** 'Reading With Dogs'/Educational Visits

**Date of Implementation:** August 2020

**Review Date:** January 2021, September 2021, September 2022, January 2024