



New Leaf Triangle Dog Risk Assessment

Address: Goadby Lane, Chadwell, Melton Mowbray, LE14 4LP

ASSESSOR/JOB TITLE: Director
Name: Carly Steel

DATE Created :09.10.18

Reviewed: Carly Steel 26.10.20

PREVIOUS REVIEW DATE: Oct 2022

Reviewed 16/09/2022 BY Bryony Thurlow, Animals & Facilities coordinator

RECENT REVIEW DATE: October 2024 by Laura Jackson – Operations Manager

Next review October 2026

KEY

RISK MATRIX

Risk = Probability (Frequency) x Consequence (Severity)

		CONSEQUENCE (Severity)		
		Severe (3)	Moderate (2)	Minor (1)
P R O B A B I L I T Y	Frequent (3)	9	6	3
	Occasional (2)	6	4	2
	Rare (1)	3	2	1

ALL ASSESSMENTS WILL FOLLOW THIS MATRIX USING THE TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

Context

This risk assessment covers the risks associated with having dogs onsite a NLT. Familiar dogs (George, Holly and Fred) are onsite most days and Apple joins during the camps, where they participate in sessions with children and young people who visit the site. These sessions may include dog care, handling, games or relaxation time. Sometimes the dogs will not be used directly, but be part of the NLT environment in the yard and cabin areas.

ACTION PLAN

FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	BY WHOM	TARGET DATE	COMPLETED
Review CS 26.10.20 Dogs must be given the choice as to whether or not they wish to participate in the activity (grooming, walks, cuddles) and not forced/led/grabbed against their will. Staff to ensure this.	All		ongoing
Review October 2024 LJ – All dogs must be signed in the diary next to their owners name. In the event of a fire all animals must be accounted for.	Dog owners	Ongoing	Ongoing

NUMBER	HAZARD/POSSIBLE OUTCOME	GROUPS	RISK RATING	CONTROLS
HS1	Dog Welfare – unhappy and irritated dogs	Dogs	Green 2	<p>Students to be monitored at all times when interacting with dogs. Dog to be given regular breaks in the cabin. Dog to have a consistent quiet space in the cabin and access to water and a bed. When walking the dog, the harness must be used so that the lead does not pull directly onto the collar. Dogs must only be fed treats as agreed by their owner due to potential gastric problems caused by overeating and intolerances. Rewards such as play and massage should be used instead of food where possible. When outside of the cabin, the dogs must be supervised at all times. This is to ensure that they do not eat something that will make them ill, escape onto the road or threaten other smaller animals.</p> <p>Dogs must be given the choice as to whether or not they wish to participate in the activity (grooming, walks, cuddles) and not forced/led/grabbed against their will. Staff must ensure this.</p> <p>If staff are worried about any of the dogs welfare, health or behaviour they must report this to the management team and the owner.</p>
HS9	Dog handling – behaviour around dogs (potential to bite/scratch)	Students/ Staff	Red 6	<p>Only dogs that have been assessed by the management team are to access the NLT site during session times. Guide dogs can be accommodated with prior warning and agreement with the management team. Currently, George the Chihuahua, Fred the Labrador and Holly the Terrier have been approved to come onsite during sessions. Notable points about each dog are as follows:</p> <p>George (owner Lorraine/Troy) – George is a Chihuahua born 2016. George enjoys massage, agility, walks in the woods, enrichment puzzles, treat rewarded tricks and naps in the warmth. He doesn't</p>

like going out into the cold without his coat, walking in the woods without Lorraine and he will feel threatened if individuals are too rough, pick him up without knowing him well or if they are too close to his face. George may cower, put his ears back/down and growl if he feels threatened. Individuals are to avoid doing these things and instead be calm and quiet around George. There is a poster displaying his signs of fear and staff are to support individuals to follow this guidance and recognise his signs of fear. If he is growling, he should be given quiet time and left alone. George may overeat and take food, staff and students are to put their food in the designated shelves in the cabin to avoid this. He can unzip food bags, get in bins and use items to climb on to get to higher shelves in search of food! In the summer months he will raid families' food bags on day camps etc! Chocolate and other food dangerous to dogs must be kept in cupboards when George is on site,

Holly (owner Lorraine/Troy) Chihuahua cross terrier born 2012– Holly occasionally goes to site 1. Holly enjoys treat rewarded tricks and obstacle courses with people she knows. She likes water and is happy to be bathed in warm weather. She can easily overheat in hot weather so this needs to be monitored and she may need cooling down with water – she will happily sit in a bowl of water! She has occasionally had some kind of seizures where she goes rigid, grunts a lot and is unsteady on her feet. If this happens, support and reassure her as needed and call Lorraine or Troy immediately. Vets have not prescribed any treatment, but if any concerns take her to Melton vets. Holly likes to build a relationship with people so it is important to go slowly with her as she can feel frightened if she is picked up/walked by unfamiliar people. Holly may bolt if there are loud noises especially bangs or a camp fire crackling or if she is very scared of a horse etc, so if in any doubt take her to a safe place such as car or cabin and shut her up securely. Holly can sometimes bark a lot, especially guarding the cabins and this may frighten some students. Holly has never tried to bite anyone but is very vocal. On sessions where there are lots of students or students with phobias, she will not be onsite.

Fred (owner Carly) – Fred is a Labrador born 2012. Fred may visit on the occasion Carly is on site for observations. Fred enjoys games, catch, fetch, hide and seek, jumping and walks in the wood. He finds it easier to build a relationship, although he can become excited and tire himself out. He is not able to know when he needs a break or water, so staff are to ensure he has a break and water regularly. He doesn't like being picked up. He may take food and will eat other animal's food. Food is to be stored in the designated areas and he is to be monitored at all times when in the yard area. He is intolerant to wheat so treats are to be avoided, unless they are his own. He will kill the small animals if he can easily get to them, so staff and students must be vigilant. Fred can get very hot in warm weather so will need water, regular breaks, cool mat and occasionally washing down with cool water.

Apple (owner Lorraine/Troy) –Apple is a large terrier crossbred dog rescued from Croatia. Born 2015). Apple is often at site 2 in the morning as students arrive. She is friendly and gentle. Apple loves playing ball and will retrieve very well and give the ball back. She enjoys being stroked. Doesn't like people sitting too close to her when she is lying down and will growl, so give her space. At site 1 Apple can go off lead in the wood. Children must be supervised with her at all times to make sure they are calm and quiet, as she can become overexcited. She is not to be onsite unless the small animals and birds are in their hutches and coops or she is on her harness and lead as she will kill them. Apple is very fearful of dogs that she doesn't know which takes the form of aggression towards them. She should not be on site with other dogs outside her family (Syd, Holly and George) unless closely supervised by Lorraine or Troy.

Sydney (owner Lorraine/Troy)
Syd is a Weimaraner born 15.04.21. He is affectionate and lively. Syd is often at site 2, especially in the mornings. He has never shown any aggression towards anyone or anything, but can be exuberant and boisterous. He needs supervision at all times around children under 16 or students not competent and confident with big dogs as he can be overly friendly and pushy. He particularly

			<p>likes to lean on your legs for a cuddle and could knock younger children over. He still exhibits puppy mouthing and can pull at clothing or chew your hands. If he is showing these behaviours, you should tell him, "no", walk away and ignore him. Out in the field, he is very fast and if not looking where he is going, e.g. if playing with another dog, he could knock you over, so any games need to be very carefully controlled and supervised by staff at all times. He likes to play frisbee, but can try and grab the frisbee as you pick it up, so care needs to be taken to keep him away as you pick it up and throw it. This should be staff or experienced children over 16. No one should engage him in chase games (running around with him) as he is too big and boisterous.</p> <p>Syd may be around as cars arrive in the mornings. He will not run out of the gate but will walk around the cars to try and see who is arriving, so may need some supervision/redirection at these times for his own safety.</p> <p>At site 1, Syd needs to be closely supervised with small children as he could knock them over. He must not go out of the cabins off lead unless he is with Lorraine or Troy as, although he has so far been good with the smaller animals, due to his age and breed, this cannot be taken for granted.</p> <p>Lottie (owner staff Bryony Thurlow) Lottie is a Labrador born 2021. Lottie is still young and learning. At times when she is overwhelmed she can be known to jump up. Staff and students must be aware and are advised to turn around and ignore the behaviour or a clear 'down' instruction given. When she demonstrates the correct behaviour, she can be praised with a stroke on her head and 'good girl'. She loves fuss and running around and would benefit from recall practice and small agility courses help her stimulation. However only small treats to be provided to prevent weight gain. she may take food and will eat other animal's food. Food is to be stored in the designated areas and she is to be monitored at all times when in the yard area. Lottie must not be rewarded 'human' food. All treats must be agreed with Bryony.</p> <p>Milo (owner Lydia Gibson). Milo is a black Labrador born 2024. Milo is very young and still learning. He is very jumpy as he is still learning</p>
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to stay down. Staff and students must be aware and are advised to turn around and ignore the behaviour or a clear 'down' instruction given. When he demonstrates the correct behaviour, he can be praised with a stroke on his head and 'good boy'. It is best to crouch down and stroke him at his level to avoid him jumping. He is starting to learn basic commands and recall. For now, Milo is to stay on the lead until his recall and behaviour around the animals can be properly assessed. Milo will eat anything so staff and students need to be aware of what is left around that he can get.

Billy (owner Kath Carter). Billy is a Golden Doodle born May24. Billy will be with Kath at all times initially on site as still very young and being socialised. He is familiar with children and other dogs and is very friendly and confident. No-one should pet, feed or play with Billy without Kath present while he is still so little, insecure and still learning how to play appropriately. (Current as at Aug 7th 24)

Murphey (owner Laura Jackson) Murphey is a Boxer born September 2022. He is young and still learning. Murphey is very affectionate; he enjoys a pat and playing with others. He is well socialised with other dogs and enjoys meeting people. Murphey is to be kept on a lead and with Laura at all times while he is still in training and being socialised with the animals. Staff are to monitor young children around Murphey as he may become over excited and could knock them over. If Murphey jumps up, staff and students must be aware and are advised to turn around and ignore the behaviour or a clear 'down' instruction given. When he demonstrates the correct behaviour, he can be praised with a stroke on his head and 'good boy'.

Rupert- (Owner Freya Heslop) - Rupert is a Cocker Spaniel born 2023. He is very shy and anxious when in new situations or meeting new people and so it takes time for him to adjust. His anxiety will show through hiding behind trusted people and possible growling or barking if you approach him too close or too quickly. Rupert absolutely loves any form of fetch or 'find-it' games and can do a wide range of tricks. He is very motivated by treats, which is a

				<p>great way to build trust. His recall is generally very good, however, he is still young and very curious and so is still learning. He is very good around horses and bigger animals and leaves them alone, however, in any instance where Rupert is getting too close or is doing something he shouldn't be, he can be easily redirected with a "leave it" or "this way" command.</p> <p>Due to his breed and curious nature, he is very interested in the rabbits, guinea pigs and poultry and so he is not to be left unattended around these animals and must be kept on a lead around them at all times.</p> <p>Induction and advice to students about all dogs</p> <p>The health and safety risks around animals are to be explained to the students in a way they understand, including the risks of bites, scratches, being trodden on and knocked over. There will be a regular recap, where needed.</p> <p>The induction advice to students needs to include how to act around each type of animal present at the time of their session. This will include an explanation that students must never put their face close to the dog's face. Students need to be assessed carefully and given the necessary support and supervision around the animals subject to the assessment.</p> <p>For students with autism and/or severe learning difficulties, who may not be able to understand this information, close supervision is essential.</p> <p>Staff should monitor the students' behaviour around the animals at all times and take the necessary precautions actions to keep students safe and protect the animals' welfare.</p> <p>If a student is injured, first aid is to be used where necessary. It may be necessary for the student to be taken to A&E or call 999 depending on the situation. This is to be decided by a senior New Leaf Triangle staff member, first aider or parent.</p>
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HS3	First Aid – cuts/scratches/bites	Students/ Staff	Green 2	<p>First aid kits to be present at all times. They are located in the first log cabin, in the second log cabin, at the back of the barn and the green wood working workshop. First aid kits to be checked monthly by H&S rep and replenished as necessary. At least one member of staff on site from New Leaf Triangle needs to be first aid trained unless external accompanying staff are first aid trained. (LSS is level 3 trained, TS is trained in Outdoor First aid and TS is trained in Equestrian First Aid. The majority of staff have Emergency First Aid at work training)</p> <p>At least one person from New Leaf Triangle must have a charged mobile phone at all times. Any staff going off site with or without students must have a charged mobile phone.</p>
HS	Phobias – frightened of dog	Students/ visitors	Green 2	<p>Some people who come to NLT may be frightened of dogs. We will try to accommodate this, although NLT is an outdoor learning and animal care centre where dogs are a vital part of the curriculum. If an individual is known to be afraid of dogs, where possible, the dogs will stay in the cabin. Otherwise, the dogs will remain on the lead until the individual feels more confident around them.</p>
HS5	Allergies	Students/ Staff	Green 2	<p>Some students may be allergic to dogs, if this is the case they may be advised not to attend and may be asked for a doctor's note to say it is safe for them to attend.</p> <p>If the allergy is manageable, they will be given tasks away from the dog(s) and have their break in an area away from the dog, such as the sensory stable or a different log cabin. They will be offered a dust mask and gloves.</p>
HS7	Infection control - Washing hands	Students/ Staff	Yellow 3	<p>There are some diseases that can occasionally be transferred from animals to humans, although the risk of this is very low. There are also likely to be germs in the environment. Hand sanitiser, wipes and clean water are present at all times for students and staff to clean their hands.</p>

				Everyone should wash clean and sanitise their hands after handling and cleaning out the animals and before eating and drinking.
HS15	Animal excrement - Ingestion could cause illnesses	Students	Green 2	Some animal excrement can carry diseases, although incidences of this are rare. All students should be advised to wash their hands with hand sanitiser after handling and cleaning out the animals and before eating and drinking. Owners or the assigned responsible staff members are responsible for disposing of dog faeces. If a student ingests animal excrement, advice should be sought from NHS direct or GP. For students where this is a likely possibility, for example a student with Pica, they should be closely supervised at all times on the premises and could be advised that it is not a suitable placement for them.
HS18	Fire risks – death/injury from flames and smoke inhalation Also see fire risk assessment	Students/ staff/ dogs	Yellow 3	If there is a fire, the fire procedure should be followed as detailed in the Premises RA. Dogs should be removed from the area on the lead and wait with the staff/students in the goat pen or car park. <i>If it is safe to do so they can be put in their owner's car.</i>

I have read and understand the New leaf Triangle Risk Assessment above and agree to follow its guidelines:		
Staff name	Signature	Date

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