

## Benefit Risk Assessment Activity

Complete this form in conjunction with Benefit Risk Excursion and Hazard Management Audit form

**Provider:** Katrina Thompson      **Date of assessment:** 01:01:2024      **Date of revision:** 01:01:2025

**Activity:** Interacting with Therapy dogs.      **Location:** Providers home

- Benefits of the activity:**
- Interaction: participants tend to interact verbally and socially for longer periods, enjoy themselves more, and are more aware of their surrounds when playing with pets rather than with inanimate objects.
  - Empathy: bonding with a pet is thought to encourage empathy towards other humans and animals.
  - Positive mood: interaction with a pet is thought to improve mood and promote positive emotions.
  - Anti-stress: a link exists between pet ownership (service) and anxiety reduction.
  - The presence of a pet can reduce the amounts of cortisol, a stress response hormone produced by an autistic child upon waking in the morning.
  - The amount of cortisol in a waking autistic child decreased from 58% to 10% when a therapy dog was present, when removed the amount of cortisol increased to 48%.
  - Oxytocin calms and soothes the nervous system.

**Participant's comments:**

'Sshh you'll make Kobba sad if you yell.'

'I love Kobba.'

'I love Russell.'

'Russell and Kobba want to come in, Kat come quick.'

'You're OK Russell and Kobba keep us safe.'

'Where's Kobba...Kobba I love you Kobba!'

'Hello Kobba, hello Russell.'

"Angel is in heaven now playing."

'I miss Angel, Kobba looks sad, here Kobba I'll cuddle you.'

'I love Russell, he's so soft.'

'Russell come sit with me.'

'I love Russell come here Russell,' (pats seat).

'Russell's ears are down and Kobbas are up!'

Document Name	Version Number	Date of Issue	Review Date
KCS Benefit Risk Excursion and Hazard Management Audit	1.0.0	01 JANUARY 2019	01:01:2025

- Blood Pressure and Heart Rate: Participants involved in animal assisted therapy (AAT) had lower blood pressure and heart rates when interacting and stroking a dog.
- Learning: Although it is not known if the brain benefits directly from owning a pet, pet ownership does seem to assist learning, by improving motivation and speed when completing tasks, and increasing listening and concentration skills.
- If you have a participant/ child with additional needs related to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), processing disorders, learning disabilities or behavioural issues you may have noticed he or she is calmer and more connected around domestic animals.
- A therapy dog is beneficial to a child whom struggles with sensory, social or behavioural issues.
- A therapy dog is, loyal, loving, and been trained to assist children/participants to reduce bolting, decrease self-harm behaviours and reduce melt downs.
- Therapy dogs provide comfort and assistance to those who have illnesses, anxiety, and disabilities.
- A therapy dog won't ask you how your feeling, but they may sit on the couch alongside you if your OK with that.
- Learning can be stressful, because of their calming effects, a therapy dog can help soothe a participant making them feel more relaxed in order to assist the learning process.

Document Name	Version Number	Date of Issue	Review Date
KCS Benefit Risk Excursion and Hazard Management Audit	1.0.0	01 JANUARY 2019	01:01:2025

Hazards Identified :	Precautions/controlled measures:	Who/When:	Risk assessment after the precautions: low
Animal faeces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog faeces picked up each time dogs taken outdoors, before outdoor activities, small amount dirt over top if not firm.</li> <li>• Diet to remain same to stop diarrhea-participants aware, discuss and assist same – ensure participants stick to dogs’ diet when helping.</li> <li>• Vets yearly for boosters, same disclosed in Provider Info book at front entrance.</li> <li>• Dogs washed at Petbarn weekly and flea protected.</li> <li>• Wormed monthly.</li> <li>• Participants with allergies would be encouraged to look elsewhere for care as the therapy dogs have 90 % involvement with children. Note: participants with fears of dogs have reversed same after interaction and (1-1) guidance to overcome same.</li> <li>• Supervise, educate participants.</li> </ul>	PROVIDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety checks done 07.00HRS, 10.30HRS and when required.</li> <li>• Supervise always, separate dog/s when needed.</li> <li>• Vets yearly for boosters, same disclosed in Provider info book at front entrance.</li> <li>• Wormed monthly – nails trimmed by provider.</li> </ul>
Parasites			
Allergies			
Venture and safety information attached	N/A		Notes: Participants advised to be very gentle.
Assessment prepared by: Katrina Thompson.		Date: 01:01:2024	<b>Date of revision: 01:01:2025</b>

Document Name	Version Number	Date of Issue	Review Date
KCS Benefit Risk Excursion and Hazard Management Audit	1.0.0	01 JANUARY 2019	01:01:2025



Document Name	Version Number	Date of Issue	Review Date
KCS Benefit Risk Excursion and Hazard Management Audit	1.0.0	01 JANUARY 2019	01:01:2025