

The Olive Tree



Nursery

Nursery dog policy and Risk Assessment

Introduction.

At The Olive Tree Nursery we recognise children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a suitable calm dog. In addition to this, the children take great enjoyment through interaction with animals.

This is Flynn, he is a lovely playful Cockerpoo. Flynn enjoys long walks on the beach and loves nothing more than playing fetch with the children or having a tummy rub!



Cockapoos are a crossbreed between a cocker spaniel and a poodle, known for their sweet, friendly and loving temperament. They are happy fun-loving dogs that thrive on social interaction and although lively, active and enthusiastic, they make a calm companion for children.

Context.

- Flynn is owned by the Nursery Owner, Helen and comes to nursery approximately twice a week. He has his bed in her office, so he has his calm area but doesn't like to miss anything so is often in reception.
- Flynn is a cockerpoo with a hypoallergenic coat.
- The risk assessment attached will be removed annually.
- Visitors, new staff or families joining the nursery will be informed of Flynn, he will also be displayed on our closed Facebook page and our website.

Management Day to day:

Flynn will:

- Not be allowed in Nursery if he is unwell.
- Be kept under full control and supervision by Helen and trained members of staff.
- Be fully trained to his bed.
- Be kept up to date with his vaccinations.
- Be fully insured to be at Nursery.

Children will:

- Not have sole responsibility or be left alone with Flynn.
- Be reminded of the following things
 - Always remain calm
 - Be gentle
 - Not to put their face near Flynn's.
 - Be shown how to safely stroke Flynn.
 - Learn about Flynn's body language.

Health and Safety.

Children will always wash their hands after touching Flynn.

Any dog foul will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of appropriately by a responsible person, never by the children.

Should a bite occur (even playfully):

- Parents will be contacted immediately
- The wound will be cleaned and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing.
- The child/adult will be released for medical attention.
- All staff will be informed.
- A full investigation will take place.
- The suitability of having a dog will be reassessed by the Nursery management team.

Risk assessment

Hazard & risk	Who could be harmed	What precautions are in place?	What else can we do?
Animal Health, diseases and parasites	Children/Staff/Visitors	• Dog to have necessary vaccinations before coming into nursery. • Dog to have regular veterinary checks • Dog to be bathed weekly • Dog to live with family and owner when not in nursery • Dog will not be allowed to come into contact with wild rodents due to possibility of disease transmission	
Dog excrement & urine - illness and falls/slips	Children/Staff/Visitors	• Dog will be wormed. • Dog will be vaccinated and kept free of fleas, ticks. • Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly disposed of responsibly and hygienically by the owner or adult with responsibility at the time of the incident. • Hand washing facilities close to where the dog will be. • Poo bags will be carried by the member of the staff walking the dog. • Flynn has been trained to not use the toilet within the nursery premises and is trained to hold it until he goes on a walk.	Dog will be exercised out of nursery at least twice a day.
Hygiene/Infection	Children/Staff/Visitors	• Adequate provision for hand washing. • Do not allow children to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed. • Soiled bedding/puppy pads disposed of in sealed plastic bags with normal refuse. • Food stuff stored carefully to prevent contamination and infestation. • Dog to be bathed weekly	Hand washing facilities to be readily available in the spaces the dog will spend most of his time.
Allergic reaction to dog	Children/Staff/Visitors	• A post will be placed on the website letting parents know there will be a dog on site so if they have a child who is allergic to let the nursery know. If this occurs we will ensure that the child does not come into close contact with the dog. • Dog kept clean and groomed. • Dog bed kept in the office away for the children's play areas. • Rooms kept well ventilated	Staff to be made aware of when the dog may be in the play areas to ensure that children with allergies do not encounter the dog by chance.

		• Dog bed and blankets to be kept clean and to a high standard. • First Aid kit kept in the each rooms.	
Bites, cuts and scratches	Children/Staff/Visitors	• Cockerpoos are bred to be sociable dogs and are often used as therapy dogs as they are known to be good with children. • Staff/children known to have allergies/phobias have restricted access to suit their needs. • There will be no unsupervised contact with the children. • Children and staff will be made aware of the procedures of meeting and handling the dog. • First Aid kit in every room. • If dog appears anxious or over-stimulated, to be removed to peaceful surroundings	
Noise, barking	Children who can't cope with noise e.g. those with additional needs.	• Cockerpoos are bred to be sociable dogs and are often used as therapy dogs as they are known to be good with children.	
Fire drill & evacuation of dog	Dog – locked in building	• Areas that the dog may be in are accessible by several members of staff.	Dog will be under supervision of a member of staff at all times.
A third party could sue the nursery for injury caused by the dog		• The nursery will ensure that the animal is covered under their insurance policy and take out comprehensive additional insurance including party liability insurance.	

Insurance:

Flynn is fully insured including Public Liability with More Than and Petgevity.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
17/04/2025	Helen Hazell	17/04/2026