

Example Risk Assessment for Children in a Licensed Dog Home Boarding Environment

This example risk assessment has been drafted to help licensed dog home boarders fulfil the requirements of the Regulations and Statutory Guidance in Part B, paragraph 16.3. Which requires the License holder to assess the risks to, or potentially caused by children who are likely to be at the property and put in place procedures to safeguard the children and the dogs. The example risk assessment is unlikely to cover all of the risks or control measures required in your premises, it is up to the duty holder to ensure all risks are assessed and control measures implemented. More information on completing risk assessments : www.hse.gov.uk/risk

The control measures required will vary according to the age and maturity of the children at the property. For example a mature 12 year child maybe able to interact with boarded dogs with adult supervision whereas toddlers interaction with boarded dogs should be kept to a bare minimum. As children mature your control measures may also change. The risk assessment should be reviewed when changes occur to working practices and at the least annually.

The Statutory guidance for home boarders does not require you to make a written record of this assessment and Health and Safety at Work legislation only requires you to write down your risk assessment if you have 5 or more employees. However it is good practice to keep a written record of any risk assessment undertaken and the procedures you put in place.

Remember The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: If any dog is dangerously out of control in any place, including all private property, the owner, or person for the time being in charge of the dog, is guilty of an offence. A dog is regarded as dangerously out of control on any occasion on which there are grounds for reasonable apprehension that it will injure any person assistance dog, whether or not it actually does so, therefore if a dog in your care causes injury to any persons, including children or visitors, you may face prosecution. More information: www.gov.uk/control-dog-public

Having robust systems and procedures designed to prevent incident would be beneficial to Licence holders should an incident occur.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed & how	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control the risk?	Action by:	Action by when?	Date completed:
<p>Dogs aggressive behaviour/Bites</p>	<p>Resident children</p> <p>Visiting children</p> <p>Visiting adults</p>	<p>Pre assessment of dog before taking booking including trial acclimatisation – this should be documented.</p> <p>No child should be left alone with a dog.</p> <p>If a dog exhibits signs of aggression or anxiety it should be kept separate from children for the ENTIRE DURATION of the child's stay.</p> <p>Separation of dog and children by using safety equipment (E.G. safety gate/closed door/cages etc.) <i>(Note: any dog that's separated requires a special program of enrichment)</i></p> <p>Gradual familiarisation with children and any new dog.</p> <p>(Consider introducing dog to child if necessary on managed basis)</p> <p>Supervised access of children in the home with dogs by licence holder or responsible adult. Assess if any children at the property have any individual needs, (i.e. disabilities, learning difficulties) which may require a separate assessment and additional control measures.</p> <p>Dogs must be supervised when playing with toys if children are present.</p> <p>Children must not use short tug toys in case of accidental nipping of fingers.</p> <p>Dogs will not sleep in a bedroom with a child.</p>	<p>Educate children on correct behaviour around a dog.(E.G. teach child - not to chase dog, to leave dog alone when it goes into its crate, not to approach dog even if previously friendly)</p> <p>Dogs to go on leads if necessary – crates available for size of dog or other means of separating dog from children.</p> <p>Review risk assessment to ensure it is suitable and sufficient</p> <p>Licence holder to make visiting parents aware of the risks & to monitor throughout the visit.</p>	<p>Licence holder</p> <p>Parent of visiting child</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>During the visit</p>	

<p>Choking</p> <p>Children getting access to dogs toy</p>	<p>Young resident children</p> <p>Visiting young children</p>	<p>Dogs toys to be kept separate from young children or other children who may be at the property</p> <p>No dog toys should be at the premises where there are small parts or damage which may injure a child.</p> <p>Ensure all dog food and dog treats are cleared away promptly to avoid a child picking them up and choking on them.</p>	<p>Licence holder to make visiting parents aware of the risks & to monitor throughout the visit.</p>	<p>Licence holder</p> <p>Parent of visiting child</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>During the visit</p>	
<p>Zoonotic disease</p> <p>Dogs carry infectious diseases that can pass to humans</p> <p>Through licking, touching and faeces etc</p> <p>These include: Ringworm, salmonellosis, leptospirosis, campylobacter, Giardia cryptosporidium toxocariasis (round worm) and tape worms.</p>	<p>Resident children</p> <p>Visiting children</p> <p>Adults</p>	<p>All dogs will have up to date vaccinations and flea and worm treatments before being admitted to the home. Dogs will also be in good health any dogs that are sick will not be admitted to the home.</p> <p>Regular cleaning of rooms, furnishing, toys etc as per the Cleaning Schedule.</p> <p>All children to wash hands thoroughly if they have been in contact with a dog or the dogs toys etc.</p> <p>Children to avoid dogs licking their faces, face to face contact between the dog and child should be prevented and dogs should not lick hands, face of the child.</p> <p>Ensure dog faeces is picked up on a regular basis and disposed of in an appropriate waste disposal facility. Any defecation inside the house is cleaned up immediately.</p> <p>Dogs who are ill placed in isolation and children will have no access.</p>	<p>Vaccination Policy</p> <p>Cleaning schedule</p> <p>Handwashing after touching dog. Sanitiser available for use after handwashing (do not substitute hand gel for handwashing)</p> <p>Dogs in the exercise area are monitored to ensure that faeces are cleaned up as soon as possible.</p> <p>Licence holder to make visiting parents aware of the risks & to monitor throughout the visit.</p>	<p>Licence holder</p> <p>Parent of visiting child</p> <p>Older child</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On day of visit</p>	

Allergic reaction	Resident children	Licence holder will be aware of their own children but should ask parents/guardians of visiting children	If children are allergic but parents/guardians still want them to visit the business ensure that safe measures are in place for the child. (E.g. emergency contact numbers)	Licence holder	On-going	
	Visiting children	Any medication brought to the property must be kept locked away from the dogs and children. Medication should only be administered to a child by their parent/guardian		Parent of visiting child	On day of visit	
Provision of food for dogs and/or children	Resident children	Dogs food and water bowls to be kept in area away from children.	Licence holder to make visiting parents aware of the risks & to monitor throughout the visit.	Licence holder	On-going	
	Visiting children	Feeding of dogs should take place away from children. Feed the dogs in separate parts of the home, as mealtimes are frequently a flashpoint for disputes. Young children should not be allowed to feed dogs treats. Dogs food in separate fridge or in sealed container on separate shelf. Children should be closely supervised when eating food or snacks and in an area away from the dogs.		Parent of visiting child	On day of visit	
Chemical ingestion	Resident children	Ensure any chemicals or medication etc is kept in a locked cupboard away from children - child proof locks should be fitted on all cupboards where chemicals or medicines are kept.	Licence holder to make visiting parents aware of the risks & to monitor throughout the visit.	Licence holder	On-going	
	Visiting children			Parent of visiting child	On day of visit	
Safety of children when exercising dogs	Resident children	The number of dogs to be exercised/walked on lead will need to be assessed based on the individual characteristics of the dogs (excitable, lead trained, size of dog) and the needs of a	Licence holder to make visiting parents aware of the risks & to monitor throughout the visit.	Licence holder	On-going	
	Visiting children			Parent of	On day of	

<p>Child getting knocked over by a dog</p> <p>Child being pulled over by a dog on a lead</p>		<p>child. For example you should not walk more than 2 dogs with a push chair. You maybe able to walk more dogs if the accompanying child is older, e.g. 12.</p> <p>Children not to have sole responsibility for holding dog leads in public places.</p> <p>If dogs are free running in an open space, e.g. Garden, the size/number of dogs will need to be assessed against the size of the child. If there is a risk or threat to the child, they should be removed from the area until the dogs calm down again.</p> <p>Dogs should not be tied to a push chair/pram.</p>		visiting child	visit	
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