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RE: Risk Management – Injury to child from the dog during a Story Dogs reading session

To whom it may concern,

Story Dogs is very aware of the potential risks to children who participate in our program. As such we have gone to extensive lengths to minimise these risks. In the event that an injury does happen we have current Public Liability Insurance to \$20 million dollars. The following is a summary of the risk minimisation strategies we have embedded into our recruiting, training and placement procedures for our volunteer Dog Teams:

- No restricted dog breeds are used.
- A person must have owned or be closely associated with the dog for at least 6 months.
- The dog must be older than 12 months.
- Dog Teams must pass a 10 point Dog Team Accreditation Test.
- We use only experienced dog trainers to accredit the Dog Teams.
- Multiple dog accreditors assess dogs if necessary.
- Volunteers are trained to look for the signs of their dog becoming stressed, a possible precursor for a dog bite.
- Volunteers are to enter and exit the school in times when children are in class and not in the playground where the dog can become stressed due to large amounts of noise and attention.
- Volunteers never leave their dog unattended at school.
- The dog is on a lead at all times when at school.
- Volunteers use a Dog Behaviour Record sheet which is filled out weekly. This is a monitoring tool to determine whether the dog is showing signs of stress at school.
- Volunteers are trained in the Story Dogs Emergency Procedure if any incident happens at school.
- Parental consent is required before a child can participate in the program. It is assumed that a child who is strongly afraid of dogs or who has behaviours which may be detrimental to dogs is not given permission.

We hope that this has addressed your risk management planning. If you require any further information please don't hesitate to call or email myself directly,

Yours Sincerely

Janine Sigley
Co-founder

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