



School Therapy Dogs at Cessnock High School

DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

- Is the Principal supportive?
- Has the Principal discussed this with their Director?
- Has this been discussed with the Community?
- Has this been discussed with Staff?
- Is the Health and Vaccinations of the dog up to date?
- Has the dog undergone some recognised obedience training?
- Will the dog have access to food, water and a safe place as necessary?
- Who will be the handler of the dog?
- Is there are Risk Management Plan in place?

POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

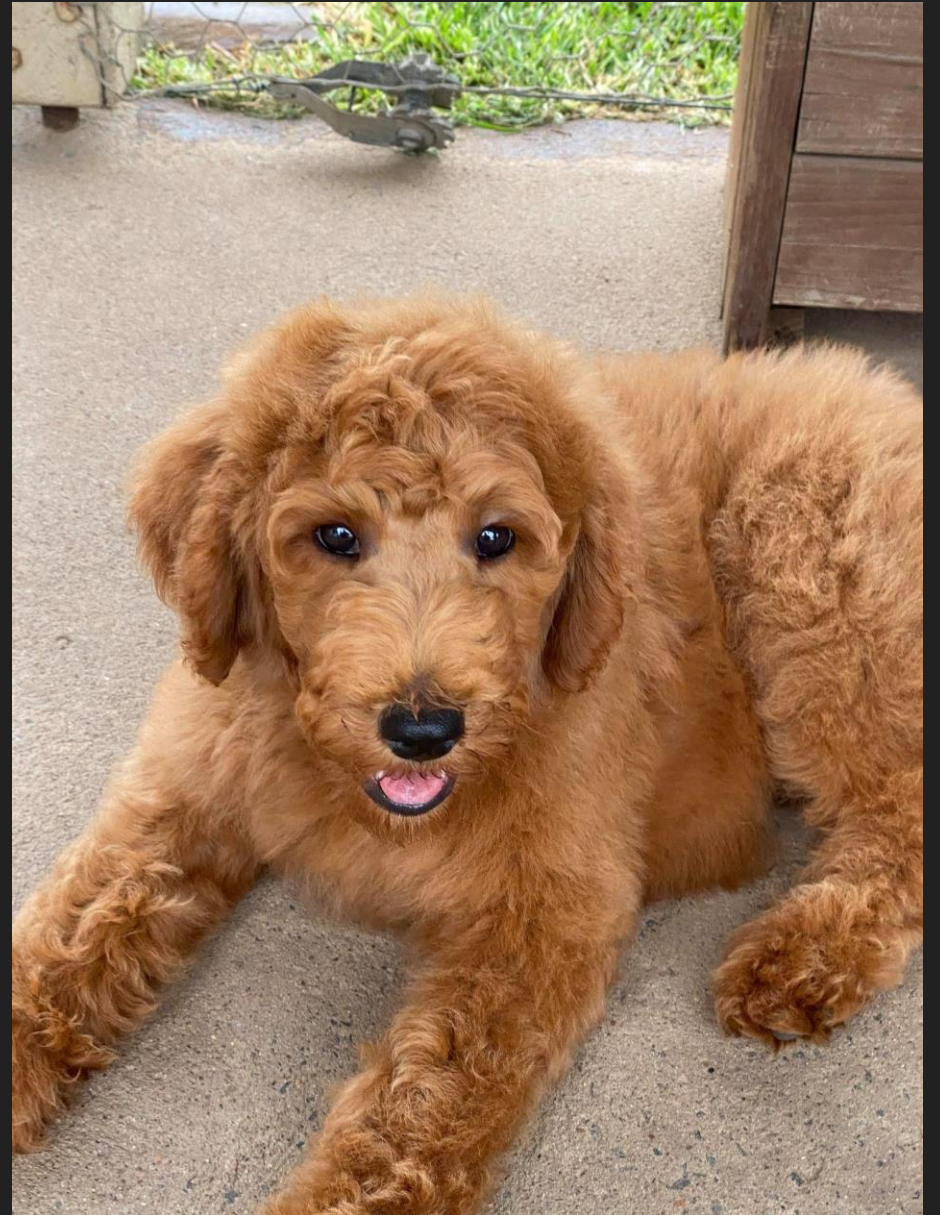
(SUPPORTED BY RESEARCH)

- Further mental health, well being and behaviour support
- Improving quality of life as a tool for socialising, relaxation and communication
- Help reduce anxiety and stress
- Increases in opportunity to display independence and confidence by looking after a pet
- Gaining awareness of pro-social behaviour in regard to treating animals appropriately
- Opportunities for sensory stimulation and exercise and enables children to receive and give attention and affection
- Less aggressiveness and hyperactivity



PADDY

- My name is Paddy and I am still a puppy!
- I am a standard size Labradoodle
- I am still learning to listen to my owner
- I can sit, stay, drop and shake
- If you see me please make sure you ask my owner before you pat me
- My owner is Miss Lewis and you can find me in SEEK
- I am currently being trained as an official school therapy dog
- Always follow our 'CHS Support Dogs Manual'



INDI

- My name is Indi
- I am a Bordoodle
- I can sit, stay, drop, fetch and shake
- If you see me please make sure you ask my owner before you pat me
- My owner is Mrs Cooper and you can find me in the DP Headquarters (Room 24)
- I am currently being trained as an official school therapy dog
- Always follow our 'CHS Support Dogs Manual'



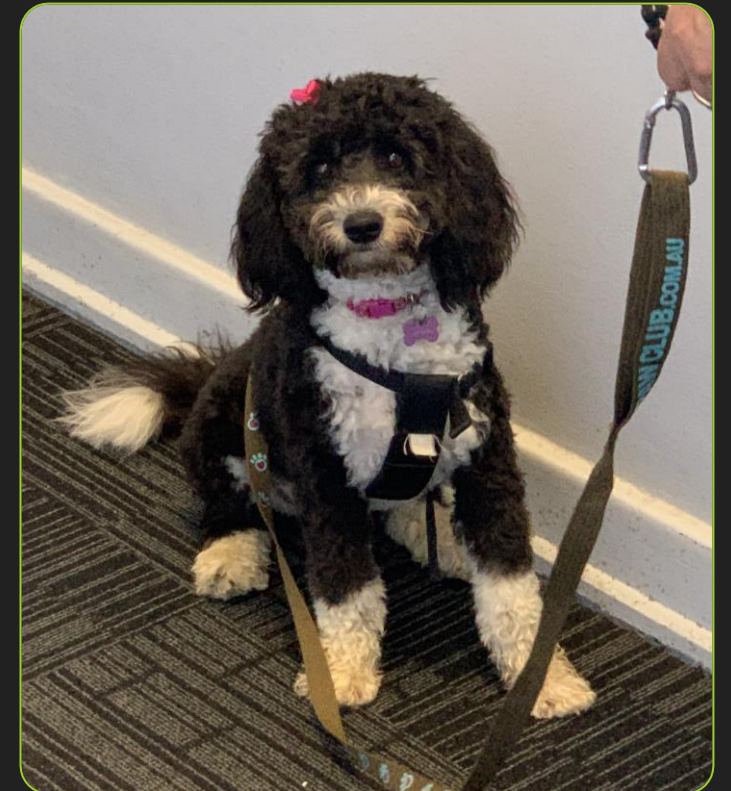
PRESTON

- My name is Preston
- I am a 2 year old Labrador
- I am from the Guide Dogs and am a trained therapy dog. I am a fully grown puppy, please don't be scared by this. I am so super friendly
- I can sit, stay, heel, drop and recall
- I love to be around students and get pats, I love to play with my toys
- If you see me please make sure you ask my owner before you pat me.
- My owner is Ms Haskara and you can find me in the DP Headquarters (Room 24)
- Always follow our 'CHS Support Dogs Manual'



DOs

- Ask our owner before patting us. If it is ok - Stand side on, and pat the us on our back away from our mouth
- Wash your hand after patting us, especially before you eat
- Please put all of your rubbish in the bin so we do not eat something we shouldn't. If you see us eating something we shouldn't please tell our owners immediately



DON'Ts

- Do not feed us
- Do not chase us if we are playing in the playground
- Do not pat us if we are walking past on our leads. Wait until we stop and the owner gives permission



What not to feed dogs.....

Please make sure you do not leave food scraps anywhere

The following foods can cause severe poisoning, injury or discomfort:

- Onions
- Chocolate
- Grapes and raisins
- Corn cobs
- Stone fruit – seeds will cause obstructions
- Cooked bones
- Xylitol –found in some peanut butter brands
- Fatty and salty and sugary foods
- Xanthine's- found in caffeine

** Please note that this is not a complete list – always check before you feed your dog something new



THE USE OF PADDY, INDI & PRESTON AT CHS

- Used to build rapport with students
- Used to de-escalate students during emotionally tense moments
- To provide comfort and confidence when students are completing set tasks
- To provide a calming environment to all students
- They were used to build rapport with students
- Used to de-escalate students during emotionally intense moments
- A risk management plan has been established
- Paddy, Indi and Preston are the sole responsibility of their owners. Paddy resides with Miss Lewis in SEEK, Indi resides in DP Headquarters with Mrs Cooper and Preston resides with Miss Haskara in the HT Wellbeing Office

What do I do if I have a phobia of dogs?

Moving around the school (playground / hallways):

1. Stand still with your arms beside you.
2. Let the teacher know that you are uncomfortable
3. Stay Calm and the owner will quickly move the dog away from you.

In the classroom

1. Stay in your chair
2. Let the teacher know that you are uncomfortable
3. Stay calm and the owner will quickly remove the dog from the classroom.

It is important that you let your teacher know how you are feeling so we can move the dog away immediately.

What do I do if I have an allergy to dogs?

1. Please tell your teacher immediately that you are allergic to dogs.
2. If you do come into contact with animal hair / animal you are allergic to please tell your teacher and follow your ASCIA action plan.

It is important that you tell your teacher that you are allergic to animal hair. The owner will remove the dog from the space immediately.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- <http://nswschoolanimals.com/dogs/>
- <https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/animal-welfare-policy-schools>