



## STAFF POLICY FOR SPUD, ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

July, 2022

- When arriving and leaving work, and Spud's coat is OFF, she may say hello to all staff and be treated as a regular dog. Staff are welcome to greet her and pat her – with calm greetings.
- When Spud's coat is ON, staff are to use low key greetings please.
- From time to time an ES staff member, Skye Miller, Jodie Hornsby, Stephen Wilkinson or another authorised staff member may wish to bring a student who is feeling sad/emotional/needing love into the art room to have a pat with Spud as a calming and comforting experience (but Spud is not to be used as a reward for negative behaviour). This is okay, at any time except when Spud is on her mat during the lesson introduction. Staff are to approach Michelle first and ask if it is okay for Spud to be patted, etc. Michelle also has a brush in dog bag which the student can use as a calming technique if they want to. NOTE: Spud is not to be touched on her front paws if possible, particularly the left. She has had previous trauma and is sensitive. She will lick her lips if this happens as she is anxious and is attempting to calm herself.
- Wherever possible, all commands are to be given by Michelle. However, Spud does know these *words* and actions and they can be used by staff if the need arises.
  - Come* (come to me) – Arm up straight in the air
  - Sit* (sit down) – One finger raised up and slightly moved towards Spud
  - Stay* (don't move) – Hand fully extended and parallel to her face
  - Up* (release from sit, onto chair, etc) – Hand out and moved towards you as an invite
  - Go on* (release to be free) – voice command
  - BACK!* Can be used by staff or students if they feel Spud is too close. She will back back 3 paces.
- Spud 'works' only 5 hours per day, as indicated by wearing her coat.
- Spud will need to rest in between sessions. She will be in the art room during recess and lunch after walks and toileting breaks (not on yard care) and is to be left alone. The door will be closed. However, recess is a time when some students will be invited in to interact with Spud, only when Michelle is present.
- Toileting is required periodically. Michelle will take Spud out to grassy areas/walk outside school grounds every recess and lunch. Any poos are picked up using bags and disposed of in dumper.
- Spud will not be in contact with students whose parents have opted out of consent. This may be simply in the form of sitting up on a stool and avoiding her. Any staff who need to avoid contact with her, please let Michelle know and if it is hair or saliva allergy.
- Spud is never to be left alone with students without Michelle/a handler present.

**Spud's vet** is: Mornington East Vet Clinic, 161 Mornington Tyabb Road. Phone: (03) 5975 7766

Spud is not allergic to anything. She is fully vaccinated, wormed and groomed daily.

If anything happens to me, please contact (brother) Gavin Eakins 0446 516 586 for Spud care.

## **STUDENT TEACHING POINTS FOR SPUD, ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY**

(Notes, to be made into a slideshow with visuals)

- Be calm around Spud. Quiet voices and actions. She is very gentle and loves gentle kids.
- If you want to pat her, please ask Ms Eakins permission first. Stroke her head, or pat her on the chest and work your way up to her head. Please don't touch her front legs or feet as she doesn't like this (but it is okay if you forget, she will just lick her lips which means she is trying to calm herself).
- Spuddy loves pats! No more than 2 kids patting her at once!
- When Spuddy is walking around the school with her coat on, please don't run up to her. No pats when she is walking!
- No food for Spud. She gets enough at home. Please don't drop food around the school as Spud will pull to get to them and this is not good for her neck.
- If you are feeling unhappy/sad/lonely/just need a furry friend... ask Ms Eakins if you can come to the art room for the second half of recess to see Spud. Spuddy is very good at making you feel better and she will welcome you.
- Spud is not allowed to lick! She normally doesn't. Please keep your face and hands away from her mouth just in case you have left over snack on them.
- Hand sanitiser is to be used after patting Spud. It is near the door in the art room.