

THE BENEFITS OF A FACILITY DOG

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Facility Dog's presence, chin rests and pressure therapy can offer comfort, decrease anxiety and assist in the regulation of emotions. The Facility Dog can offer companionship and support to students when experiencing personal difficulties and/or trauma.

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Interaction with a Facility Dog can reduce blood pressure, provide tactile stimulation, assist with pain management, provide motivation to set goals, move, walk and assist in stimulating the senses.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A Facility Dog can provide a positive mutual topic for discussion, promote greater self-esteem/well-being and improved social interaction with others. Guided activities and group discussions can educate the students how to handle interpersonal conflicts and develop constructive responses.

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

A Facility Dog can contribute to the school environment feeling less confronting and associates learning as something positive. The Facility Dog encourages students to relax and focus on their learning without feeling judged and can be used as an incentive to attend, remain in class or complete a task. Engagement can also be created through links to learning and curriculum.



FACILITY DOG PROGRAM WIRREANDA SECONDARY SCHOOL

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WSS Facility Dog



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FACILITY DOG PROGRAM

Guide Dogs.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



WHAT IS THE FACILITY DOG PROGRAM?

The Facility Dog Program supports and enhances the learning environment for students at Wirreanda Secondary School contributing to the physical, social and cognitive development of its young people. The program uses a wraparound approach involving handlers, teachers and support staff working together to understand the young person's needs.

Led by a trained Handler, the accredited Facility Dog with Guide Dogs Australia is a Labrador which has legal access on Wirreanda Secondary School grounds. The Handler and the Facility Dog have completed the required Public Access Test and are registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board in South Australia. The Facility Dog has been assessed on its temperament, obedience, social skills and training. These assessments have identified its suitability to work within an educational facility setting.

Integrating the Facility Dog's trained skills, the program's aim is to make a positive impact on students facing challenges and assisting them to uncover their full potential. The Facility Dog provides benefits in terms of learning, engagement, emotional regulation, exposure therapy and social connection.

Guide Dogs.

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE FACILITY DOG?

The Facility Dog will be identified by wearing a yellow Guide Dog jacket and collar. The Facility Dog will have various responsibilities within the school, however it may not be working at times or have allocated rest time for its well-being. Interaction with the Facility Dog can be determined by observation of the Facility Dog's accessories and with permission of the Handler. Below are examples when you can or cannot interact with the Facility Dog:



NO JACKET

It may be possible for you to pat and interact with the Facility Dog with the ***permission of the Handler.***



JACKET & BANDANA

It may be possible for you to pat and interact with the Facility Dog with the ***permission of the Handler.***



JACKET

When the Facility Dog is only wearing its Guide Dogs jacket, this identifies it is working and ***cannot be approached.***

HOW CAN YOU ASSIST THE FACILITY DOG?

NO NAME CALLING

Calling the Facility Dog by its name or whistling will distract them from their work and confuse the instruction from their Handler.

NO COMMANDS

The Facility Dog is responsive to their Handler. Other people giving commands will confuse the Facility Dog and cause distraction from their task.

DON'T DISTURB

The Facility Dog has specific resting areas. It is important to leave the dog resting when in those areas for its well-being.

DON'T FEED

Only the Handler has the responsibility and permission to feed the Facility Dog. Food outside of the Facility Dog's special diet can cause it to feel unwell. Be mindful of your own food and ensure all rubbish is placed securely in a rubbish bin.

RESPECT THE FACILITY DOG

When working with the Facility Dog be gentle, calm and kind at all times. Respect the Facility Dog's property, environment and Handler's instructions.