

# Dog Safety & Child Welfare

A Practical Workshop for Social Work Professionals



## Overview

### *What is the workshop?*

This full-day workshop is designed to equip Social Workers with the essential knowledge and tools to assess dog safety in homes where children are present. With an increasing number of homes owning dogs, understanding canine behaviour and body language, identifying potential risks and understanding effective management is crucial to safeguarding children and supporting families effectively.

The workshop includes practical guidance, real-life case studies and interactive activities to support learning. It also provides advice on when a more in-depth pet assessment would be required by a specific pet assessor.

### *Who is this suitable for?*

This workshop is aimed at Social Work teams assessing the safety of pet dogs within a home environment where children are currently or will be placed.

### *How long are the workshops?*

Workshops are typically for 5 hours. The time can be flexible and the full day can be split into two half day sessions, if needed.

### *How many professionals can attend?*

We can cater to groups of all sizes.

## Example Workshop

*Morning*

*10:00-12:30*

### **Understanding Dog Behaviour and Safety Fundamentals**

- Participants will gain a foundational understanding of dog body language and behaviour
- How children interact with dogs and what this means for both the dog and child(ren)
- We will consider common risks within home environments

*Afternoon*

*13:30-16:00*

### **Home assessments and Risk Evaluation**

The afternoon will focus on applying knowledge in social work assessments. Social Workers will learn how to:

- Conduct dog safety assessments during home visits
- Identify risks
- Advise on practical management within the home
- Recognise when to escalate for a more in-depth professional pet assessment due to safety concerns

# **Risks of injuries to children from a dog**

*Risks*

Statista Research Dept. states that there were 30,594 dog attacks recorded by the police compared to 25,731 the previous year. In 2024-2024 1,182 attacks were of children aged 0-9 years old and 826 of children aged 10-19 years old. Furthermore, nearly 1.2 thousand children aged under 10 years of age were also admitted to hospital as a result of dog bites and strikes. [Dog bite victims in England 2023/24, by age | Statista](#)

2023 statistics on dog bites, injuries and fatalities from the British Medical Journal state that bites are increasing at and this time there was an 88% increase in hospital visits due to bites [Rising fatalities, injuries, and NHS costs: dog bites as a public health problem | The BMJ](#)

# **Arranging a workshop**

## *Booking*

For more information or to book a workshop, please contact Josie:

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## *Cost*

The full-day workshop is £560

Two half-day workshops is £640