

Risk Assessment



Location: Walking with Canines, East Carr Rd, Hull, HU8 9LP

Date: 2025 onward (live document will be updated; last update 12/04/2026)

This document is a live document and will be updated and amended after each cycle of training groups.

All risk is calculated by looking at the likelihood of event occurring and impact it could have on the training instructor/s, dog guardians, dogs and other parties.

All must follow this risk assessment and agree to its terms which is sent prior to commencement of the course. This document has been created by Marie Derycke (trading as Ingenious Dogs) and covers all training instructor/s, dog guardians, dogs and other parties involved in dog training.

Total risk rating

| | | Likelihood of risk rating | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Severity risk rating | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| | 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| | 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |

1-4 = Low risk rating / 5-9 = Medium risk rating / 10-15 = High risk rating / 16-25 = Very-high risk rating

Risk assessment

| Hazard | Individuals affected | Likelihood | Severity | Risk rating | Mitigating measures | Likelihood after m.m. | Severity after m.m. | Risk rating after m.m. |
|--|--|------------|----------|-------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Car collisions or car-related accidents in the car park | Training instructor, clients, dogs, the general public | 2 | 4 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates to car park are shut during classes Gates to car park are secured with bolts and large stones Dogs to be kept strictly on leash in the car park Clients informed that safe driving is necessary before their first visit | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Late arrivals: disruptions, startle, stress (barking) | Training instructor, clients and dogs | 4 | 1 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late arrival procedure explained to clients at the start of class: No rushing into hall Clients to offer their dog treats or toys as soon as they hear or see arriving client and dog Exercises are summarised after late arrival to reduce disruption | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Dog interactions: aggression, fear, jumping up, pushing over, injury | Training instructor, clients and dogs | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs kept at safe distances (length of arm, plus length of leash, plus 1.5m) from other dogs and clients No other person but the guardian and family to handle their own dog, other than the training instructor Dogs muzzled if previous history of aggression | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients encouraged to have insurance for their dogs, to include at the minimum 3rd party liability • Accident book provided by Walking with Canines Ltd | | | |
| Enrichment items (toys, snufflemats, Lickimats, etc.): resource guarding | Training instructor, clients and dogs | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs kept at safe distances (length of arm, plus length of leash, plus 1.5m) from other dogs and clients. • Enrichment items to be kept at a dog's station. • No other dogs to approach a dog's station, where enrichment items are located. This is explained on week 1 of group class, and reminded when dogs are moving through the hall. • Accident book provided by Walking with Canines Ltd | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Training equipment (mats, toys, platforms): tripping | Training instructor, clients and dogs | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment arranged around the edges of the hall, with training spaces and paths to doors kept clear. • Reminder after each exercise to tidy up toys, platforms, target sticks, buckets, etc. • Accident book provided by Walking with Canines Ltd | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Water bowl spills: slipping | Training instructor and clients | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any spills to be mopped dry • Wet floor signs provided by Walking with Canines Ltd • Water bowls placed at the edges of the hall and away from doors, or | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| | | | | | <p>alternatively under/behind clients' chairs (if own bowl)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accident book provided by Walking with Canines Ltd | | | |
| Dog escape (in hall or from venue): aggression, fear, injury | Training instructor, clients and dogs | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog's equipment checked on arrival for type and fit and presence of ID tag • All gates within the venue to be kept shut unless currently in use • Clients to check dog's equipment before leaving the hall • Accident book provided by Walking with Canines Ltd | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Aversive methods | Dog (and training instructor) | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients to read and sign Training Policy before attending • Fallout of aversive methods discussed in class • Alternative approaches offered to resolve issues | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Dog urination and excrements | Clients and dogs, other venue users | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning supplies are present for clients to clean any dog mess • Training instructor to supervise whether cleaning is appropriately carried out | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Spread of diseases: kennel cough, giardiasis etc. | Clients and dogs, other venue users | 2 | 4 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the client's responsibility that dogs are kept up-to-date on their vaccinations and anti-parasite treatment • Poorly dogs not to attend group classes • Clients encouraged to bring a water bowl for their own dog to reduce the spread of diseases | 1 | 4 | 4 |

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs to be kept at a safe distance from each other • Any dog messes to be cleaned immediately • Hall is swept/vacuum cleaned and mopped with a biocidal disinfectant immediately after class | | | |
| Children | Children | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children not to interact with other dogs beside their own • Children to remain under the supervision of their parents or guardians at all times, and remain at their station • Parents or guardians to bring appropriate activities for children (tablets, colouring book) • Accident book provided by Walking with Canines Ltd | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Dog's stress | Dog (and clients) | 2 | 4 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog assessment included in client intake form • Dog continuously assessed by training instructor in class • Guardians sensitised to signs of stress, and encouraged to take dogs outside for a walk around the field if necessary to recover • Guardians instructed to remove dog from hall if stress is an issue, as welfare overrides training. Training to be carried out as private sessions. | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assistant will help with training classes if they include more than 4 dogs. | | | |
| Client's stress | Clients (and dog) | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardian stress levels monitored by the training instructor in class • Training instructor to regularly check in to assess client's confidence • An assistant will help with training classes if they include more than 4 dogs. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Damage to equipment | Training instructor and venue | 1 | 3 | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment is property of Ingenious Dogs or Walking with Canines Ltd and it is the guardians' responsibility to replace should they or their dog damage this (Training Policy) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Fields: trips, slips | Training instructor, dogs | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog's skeletomuscular issues assessed in client intake form • Client to requested to share any mobility impairments in intake forms • Clients made aware of unevenness of ground in fields • Clients to wear suitable footwear and made aware of risk of slipping and sliding during wet weather conditions | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Long training lines: trips, rope burn, strangulation | Training instructor, clients and dogs | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients only to use long training lines after being instructed in their use • No long training lines to be used if clients are not wearing appropriate footwear | 2 | 2 | 4 |

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stiff training lines to be used only if dogs are free to move and mix | | | |
| Noise (and noise-induced) stress | Training instructor and clients | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients made aware of hall acoustics and to avoid chatting during instructions • Clients to be proactive to reduce dog barking • Mats provided and clients to keep dogs on mats unless instructed otherwise (sounds of nails on floors) • Enrichment activities are made available to guardians to prevent dogs from barking | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Female dogs in season: scent marking, disruption, distraction, arousal | Dogs | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female dogs not to attend group classes if in season • Clients to attend sessions without their dog, or attend the next occurrence of the class after the bitch has finished their season | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Fire | Training instructor, clients, dogs, venue | 1 | 5 | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire plan to be updated by Walking with Canines Ltd regularly • Clients made aware of during first visit to the hall • Training instructor knowledgeable of fire escape procedures, fire exits and assembly point • Fire doors to be kept shut • Fire extinguishers provided and checked by Walking with Canines Ltd | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| COVID | Training instructor, | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training stations are spaced out | 1 | 2 | 2 |

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|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | clients, venue staff and visitors | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clients are informed at the time of booking not to attend if they have signs of COVID, suspected COVID or tested positive for COVID• Clients encouraged to wear masks• Government guidelines to be followed | | | |
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