

Ingenious Dogs – Risk Assessment

Location: Guardian’s home

Date: 2021 onward (live document will be updated; last update 14/04/2026)

This document is a live document and will be updated and amended periodically.

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

All guardians will follow this risk assessment and agree to its terms which is sent prior to commencement of any training session. This document has been created by Marie Derycke and covers all guardians, dogs and assistants present during 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. |
|---|---------------------------|------------|----------|-------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Arousal from arrival at home: barking, excited, fearful or aggressive behaviour | Trainer, clients and dogs | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients to keep dogs in separate room when trainer enters the home • Clients to keep dogs on collar and leash during greeting • Clients are sent a text message when trainer arrives at the client's home • Trainer to ignore the dog during start of session, and the dog is provided with an enrichment toy (Lickimat, chew) and an item to sniff and familiarise themselves with trainer scent (toy carried inside jacket for example) | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Dog interactions: aggression, fear, jumping up, pushing | Trainer and clients | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog kept at safe distance (length of arm, plus length of leash, plus 1.5m) from trainer if excited or fearful | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| over, injury, redirected aggression | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs muzzled if previous history of aggression • Clients encouraged to have insurance for their dogs, to include at the minimum 3rd party liability | | | |
| Enrichment items (toys, snufflemats, Lickimats, etc.): resource guarding | Trainer and clients | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog kept at safe distance (length of arm, plus length of leash, plus 1.5m) from trainer if excited or fearful • Other household dogs to be kept separate. • Client and trainer to exchange any enrichment items for high-value treats • Trainer's belongings to be placed or hung high to prevent dog getting into bag | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Furniture and training equipment (toys): tripping | Trainer, clients and dogs | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client requested to tidy training environment before trainer's arrival • Trainer to assess the training environment before session begins • Equipment arranged around the edges of the room (or garden), with training | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| | | | | | <p>environment and paths to doors kept clear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder after each exercise to tidy up toys, platforms, target sticks, buckets, etc. | | | |
| Dog escape: injury | Trainer, clients and dogs | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog's equipment checked on arrival for type and fit Requirement for ID tag set in Training Policy Clients to keep dogs in separate room when trainer enters the home Clients to keep dogs on collar and leash during greeting | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Aversive methods | Dog (and trainer) | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients to read and sign Training Policy before attending Fallout of aversive methods discussed Alternative approaches offered to resolve issues | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Dog excrements | Public | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client to bring own poo bags Spare poo bags carried by trainer | 1 | 2 | 2 |

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| Spread of diseases: kennel cough, giardiasis etc. | Clients, dogs and the public | 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 • If the client's dog is poorly, the session is to be rescheduled • Dogs to be kept at a safe distance from each other • Any dog messes to be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 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 • Parents or guardians to provide appropriate activities for children (tablets, colouring book) during training | 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 | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog continuously assessed by trainer • Clients sensitised to signs of stress and encouraged to give dog multiple breaks • Trainer to pace the session to include multiple breaks between training exercises. • Should stress be an issue, training session is to be stopped immediately, as welfare overrides training. Training to be carried out on a different occasion, or online. | | | |
| Client's stress | Clients (and dog) | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner stress levels monitored by the trainer • Trainer to regularly check in during each exercise to assess client's confidence | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Damage to equipment | Trainer and venue | 1 | 3 | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment is property of Ingenious Dogs and it is the owners' responsibility to replace should they or their dog damage this as specified in the Training Policy | 1 | 1 | 1 |

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| Low-traction floors: slips, anxiety | Dogs | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog's skeletomuscular issues assessed in client intake form • Clients advised to choose a room in their home which has tractive flooring for their session • Session to be carried out outside if no suitable flooring available | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Family & home distractions | Trainer, clients and dogs | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients made aware that quiet is required for the private session so that all can focus • Trainer to assess the training environment for any distractions (TV, radio, other dogs) • Other dogs to be kept in a separate room during the session • If carrying on outdoors, trainer to assess the environment for space to move away from passerby's (including dogs) | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| COVID | Trainer and clients | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients are informed at the time of booking to reschedule their session if | 1 | 2 | 2 |

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|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | <p>they have signs of COVID, suspected COVID or tested positive for COVID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clients encouraged to wear masks• Government guidelines to be followed | | | |
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