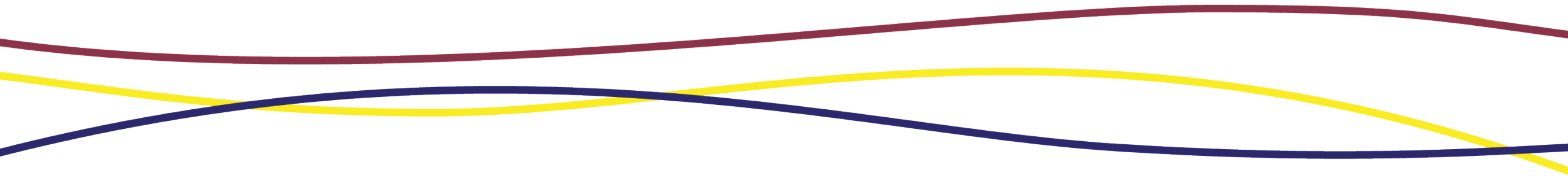




SCHOOL THERAPY DOGS

at Dungog High School



POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF



- Behavioural, wellbeing and mental health support
- Help to reduce anxiety and stress
- Increase in opportunities to display independence and confidence by looking after a pet
- Gaining awareness of pro-social behaviour by learning how to treat animals appropriately
- Opportunities for sensory stimulation and exercise, enabling children to receive and give attention and affection
- Reduce aggressiveness and hyperactivity

MEET “CHARLIE”



- My name is “Charlie”
- I am a Golden Retriever
- My owner is Ms Hudson, and you can find me in the Engagement and Wellbeing Centre
- I can sit, stay, drop, fetch and shake
- If you see me, please make sure you ask my owner before you pat me

DO'S



- Ask our owner before patting us. If it is OK, stand side on, and pat us on the back away from our mouth
- Wash your hands after patting us, especially before you eat
- Please put all your rubbish in the bin so we don't eat something we shouldn't. If you see us eating something we shouldn't, please tell our owners immediately

DONT'S

- Do not feed us
- Do not chase us if we're playing in the playground
- Do not pat us if we walking past on our leads. Wait till we stop, and the owner gives permission

WHAT NOT TO FEED DOGS



The following foods can cause severe poisoning, injury or discomfort:

- Onions
- Chocolate
- Grapes and raisins
- Corn cobs
- Stone fruit – seeds can cause obstructions
- Cooked bones
- Xylitol – found in some peanut butter
- Fatty, salty and sugary foods
- Xanthine's – found in coffee

This is not a complete list – always check before you feed a dog something new

THE USE OF CHARLIE AT DHS



- To build rapport with students
- To de-escalate students during emotionally tense moments
- To provide comfort and confidence when students are completing set tasks
- To provide a calming environment for all students

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE A PHOBIA OF DOGS?



Moving around the school (playground / hallways):

- Stand still with your arms beside you
- Let the teacher know you are uncomfortable
- Stay calm and the owner will quickly move the dog away from you

In the classroom:

- Stay in your chair
- Let the teacher know you are uncomfortable
- Stay calm and the owner will quickly remove the dog from the classroom

It is important to let your teacher know how you are feeling so we can move the dog away immediately .

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE AN ALLERGY TO DOGS?



- Please tell your teacher immediately if you are allergic to dogs
- If you do come into contact with animal hair or an animal you are allergic to, please tell your teacher and follow your ASCIA Action Plan

It is important to let your teacher know that you are allergic to animal hair. The owner will remove the dog from the space immediately.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION



- <https://nswschoolanimals.com/dogs/>
- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2004-0029>