

Craven Canines

Risk Assessment – Mantrailing Activities

This document outlines the safety measures in place during Craven Canines Mantrailing sessions. Mantrailing involves a dog following a specific person's scent trail in outdoor environments such as parks, woodland, and urban areas. Dogs work one at a time on a long line under instructor supervision.

Hazard	Possible Harm	Who May Be Affected	Safety Controls in Place	Residual Risk
Working Dogs	Possible bite, scratch, or knock-over injury.	Handlers, instructors, members of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One dog works at a time. • Dogs remain on a long line. • Pre-session suitability checks. • Safety briefings before start. • Careful venue selection. • Muzzles used if required. • Positive reinforcement methods only. 	Low
Long Line & Equipment	Rope burn, trips, entanglement, minor fractures.	Handlers, dogs, instructors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line handling instruction provided. • Demonstration before participation. • Gloves recommended. • Ongoing coaching during session. • Quality, well-maintained equipment. 	Low
Uneven Ground / Terrain	Slips, trips, sprains or fractures.	Handlers and instructors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations checked before session. • Suitable footwear advised. • Safe walking pace encouraged. • Routes adjusted to ability. • Sessions postponed in unsafe weather. 	Low
Public Interaction	Unexpected contact causing stress or minor injury.	Public, handlers, instructors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-density locations selected. • Dogs kept on long line. • Instructor supervision at all times. • Sessions paused if area becomes busy. 	Low
Sharp Objects / Debris	Cuts or paw injuries.	Dogs and handlers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual checks of area. • Routes adjusted if hazards spotted. • Human and canine first aid kit on site. • Dogs prevented from scavenging. 	Low

Hazard	Possible Harm	Who May Be Affected	Safety Controls in Place	Residual Risk
Weather Conditions	Heatstroke, dehydration, cold exposure.	Dogs, handlers, instructors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather monitored before sessions. • Water available. • Rest breaks provided. • Shortened trails in hot weather. • Sessions cancelled in extreme conditions. 	Low

Emergency Procedures

- Emergency contact details collected for all participants.
- Nearest veterinary practice and A&E; identified prior to session.
- Public liability insurance in place.
- All incidents recorded and reviewed.

Conclusion

Craven Canines takes safety seriously. With the control measures outlined above, the residual risk for Mantrailing sessions is considered LOW when participants follow instructor guidance. This risk assessment is reviewed annually or following any significant change or incident.