

ENROLMENT FORM

PART 10

Established 2011



**SPRINGFIELD
CENTRAL SS**

Facility Dog Permission

SCSS Facility Dogs

We are very honoured to introduce you to 'Essie' our very own Facility Dog. Essie joined our school in 2023 proudly trained and accredited by Empower Assistance Dogs. To host a Facility Dog who has undergone specialised training, it is a requirement to have trained handlers. We are proud to have three dog handlers on staff who passed a Nationally Accredited Animal Assisted Services Course. At SCSS, Essie has a primary handler and two secondary handlers.

The use of Facility Dogs in schools is a relatively new phenomena and there is a growing body of evidence recognising a range of benefits resulting from interactions with animals which are positive for those who interact with them. Children can potentially benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding, responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. We expect that our students will get great enjoyment from interactions with our Facility Dog/s.

It is important to know that dogs are not permitted on school grounds as a general rule. We can't bring in pets from home. Essie has specialised permission to be on site at all times and as such we are seeking permission as per below for her or any future Facilities Dogs at SCSS.

There are several terms used to describe how dogs are utilised to provide therapeutic benefit through Animal-Assisted Therapy, Animal-Assisted Interventions or Animal-Assisted Education. There are many definitions, levels of training and laws for dogs being used to assist others:

Assistance dogs – an accredited assistance dog aids a person to alleviate the negative impact of a disability and promotes positive health outcomes.

Therapy dogs – trained to be calm, supportive and to promote wellbeing and to relieve stress and anxiety at a variety of locations.

Facility Dogs – trained to work in a particular facility on a regular basis. They offer a calm, supportive role. Offer Animal assisted services based on the needs of the facility.

It is important to define the role of the dogs at our school, a facility dog (therapy dog) has to be of sound temperament and extremely well trained. The dogs do not provide individual therapy, however, they are engaged and connected to opportunities or activities which may be therapeutic.

SCSS Facility dogs will be easily identifiable will highly visible jacket and leads with both our school and Empower Assistance Dogs logo. Empower Assistance Dogs will continue to be involved



and support SCSS in maintaining a standard of animal handling, training, grooming and health for our Facility Dog/s.

SCSS Facility Dog PERMISSION

STUDENT NAME:

- ✓ I have read and acknowledge all information outlined in ENROLMENT FORM 10
- ✓ I understand the Facility Dog/s will be on site and have informed the school if my child has physiological or psychological conditions, allergies or concerns that need to be considered by the school.
- ✓ I have been informed that whilst the Facility dog/s may not have direct contact with or involvement with my child, they are likely to attend school events, visit classrooms or participate in scheduled activities.
- ✓ I will support my child to learn the 'Essie' Way

The 'Essie' Way

- Always ask permission before you interact with Essie
- When patting Essie, approach from the side and immediately give Essie a 'calming stroke' (from her head down her back)
- Act sensibly and use a calm tone and voice
- Wash or sanitise hands after any direct contact with Essie
- Try our best to keep the grounds clean of waste and food scraps at all times

To have direct contact with our Facility Dog, parental permission is required. Permission only applies to approved school dogs. This permission does not affect the school's right to prohibit other dogs on school grounds in accordance with Government Policy. Please identify your permission option below.

- ☐ I give permission for my child to have direct contact with Springfield Central State School's Therapy Dogs
- ☐ I DO NOT give permission for my child to have direct contact with Springfield Central State School's Therapy

Should you have any 'Essie' specific questions please contact us.

The school acknowledges the additional dedication and commitment of the handlers and thanks them for ensuring Essie is healthy and happy.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:

DATE:

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

Please save using the following naming convention

SCSS_Enrolment_Part10_SURNAME,Given Name and e-mail to enrolment@springfieldcentralss.eq.edu.au