Dot

Mendip Green School

School Dog Passport

Meet Dot!

Name: Dot (Dotticus McCloud)
Dot has a number of nicknames including Dorothy (when she is naughty) and Fluff.

Breed: Coton De Tulear
This might be Latin for 'tiny hairy cloud' or 'marshmallow-pooch'… we are unsure.

Date of Birth: 27th May 2021

All About Dot…

Who is your human? My human is Miss Walton. I do not like being on my own for a long time so, when I am not at Mendip Green, I go to Miss Walton's Mum and Dad's house where I get lots of cuddles and treats, and play with my doggy friends whilst she is at work.

What do you like to do? I love playing with cuddly toys, especially ones that are bigger than me. I like running around and bouncing through long grass and piles of leaves.
My absolute favourite thing is sleeping upside down or snuggled up in a big pile of cuddly toys.

How would Mr Oakley describe you? Fluffy! Mr Oakley also says I am 'marshmallowy' because I am soft and sweet. He must like me because he shares his lunch with me when Miss Walton is not looking.

What do you like the most about Mendip Green?

- I love seeing the children in the day and having my tummy tickled.
- My favourite days are roast dinner days – the Kitchen Team save me some food so I get a special treat for my lunch. I love the carrots and the green beans and the carrots and the peas and the turkey and the chicken… did I mention the carrots?
- I like to sit on the desks in the office and look out of the window.
- The grown ups come and visit me. They give me tummy tickles and play silly games that give me zoomies.

Are you ever naughty? I try really hard to be a good puppy but sometimes I can be a bit mischievous.

- Don't tell Miss Walton… BUT I really like getting mucky: jumping in puddles, rolling around in grass cuttings and digging holes in the garden then going to sleep in them!
- I really like shoe laces so sometimes I will chew Mr Oakley's shoe laces.
- I am a sausage thief. I have learned that, I can balance on my back paws and reach Mrs Stone's desk. I can then pull the bits of paper on her desk to make the bowl of sausage on top fall off the end of the desk. Then it is ALL MINE!
- I am a bit of a fussy eater, too. I don't like my doggy biscuit so I normally pick this out of my bowl and put it on the floor.

How do the grownups in school keep you safe and happy?

- I have special adults in school who look after me. I know them really well so I feel very safe with them. My grownups are Miss Walton, Mr Oakley, Mrs Kus and Mrs Stone. Mrs Baxendale, Mrs Poole, Mrs Sandford and Mrs Hodgson look after me in the office, too.
- The grownups keep the office spaces clean and tidy so there is nothing on the floor that I could find and eat.

- When the fire alarm sounds, Mrs Kus picks me up and takes me outside with her. The grownups do not leave me inside on my own. I am used to the sound of the alarm and it does not frighten me.
- I always go around the school with one of my special grownups. I wear my lead so I don't get lost.
- All of the grownups use kind hands, kind feet and kind words. They tickle my tummy, give me lots of strokes and take me for walks around the school – I love visiting you when Mrs Kus delivers the post.

What is your favourite food? I am a bit fussy about dog food but I think human food is yummy! I love vegetables and cheese, sausages and Quavers! I would eat this all of the time but my humans say I am not allowed.

What are your least favourite foods? My least favourite foods are grapes, raisins, chocolate, tomatoes, onion or garlic – all of these are bad for doggies and would make me very poorly indeed.

Why are you so fluffy? I am a Coton de Tulear – our fur is very special because it is soft like cotton. There are not many breeds of dog with fur as soft as mine. My humans brush me every day to stop my fluff from knotting. Every two weeks, Miss Walton plonks me in the bath. I do not like having a bath – they are not as fun as jumping in puddles – but I love having my hair blow dried and smell much nicer afterwards! All of this helps to make me a little fluff ball.

Who is your best friend? My best human friend is Miss Walton. My best doggy friends are Lady Bug, Bean Bag and now Mouse. They play tug of war with me and share their toys with me. Beans will stay in the garden with me if I need to go outside when it is dark, so I don't get frightened. I like to chew Bean's ears. When Miss Walton first got me Mouse, I wanted to return her… she was bouncy and loud and messy! Now, I love her. She is very silly so I am trying to teach her how to be a 'best dog' like me.

Me & Beans

Me & Mouse

Me & Bug

Do you sleep in school? Sometimes I have a nap at school – I snooze on laps, desks, floors, chairs and laptops. I will also have a snooze in my bed in the office or when one of the grownups is giving me a cuddle. After school, I go home with Miss Walton – I play, have my hair brushed and eat my dinner before bedtime.

What is your favourite book? I love all books! I like to curl up and listen to the calm voice of someone reading to me.

What is a Coton De Tulear?

- The Coton de Tulear, 'Royal Dog of Madagascar,' is a bright, happy-go-lucky companion dog whose favourite activities include clowning, cavorting, and following their special human around the house.
- Cotons are small, immensely charming dogs standing between 22 and 30 cm high and weighing anywhere from 4 to 6kg.
- Cotons are known for a profuse white coat that is as soft as cotton (or, as the French say, 'coton').
- Cotons are known to be remarkably gentle and have sympathetic awareness.
- These little jesters have a knack for walking on their back legs.
- Although generally quiet, Coton's can become very vocal—grunting, barking, and making other noises when having fun.
- Cotons love meeting new people and are very curious about new situations.
- Cotons are easy to train as they are very eager to please.
- Their coat needs brushing and combing almost daily and bathing regularly.
- When they are puppies, Cotons can have markings – these might be grey, brown, apricot or even black. They have a 'fade gene' which means, as they grow up, the markings fade until their coat is completely white.
- Like poodles, Cotons do not 'shed' hair on clothes, carpets and furniture. This makes them hypoallergenic. They do lose hair – their coat's texture causes the shed hair to be trapped in the coat. If not brushed and combed daily, their fur will mat up quickly and may require shaving.
- Cotons love to play with other dogs, and they are great with children.

Baby Dot

Health & Safety

Dot has been visiting Mendip Green since she was 4 months old. This was very gradual at first (starting in the school holidays). She got used to quiet spaces in the offices and explored the main buildings in the evening. We wanted to make sure that Dot enjoyed coming to school and was not worried by any of the sights, smells and noises. Dot was gradually introduced to the children.

- Dot has a health check at the vets every 6 months. She is kept up to date with worming and flea treatments and her annual vaccinations.
- She is microchipped and wears ID tags in line with UK regulations.
- Dot has 3rd party liability and health insurance.
- Dot is Kennel Club Registered and was from a reputable breeder of Coton de Tulears.
- Dot is bathed every 2 weeks and brushed daily. She visits the groomers every 5 weeks to keep her coat and nails short.
- Dot is fed a diet recommended by the vets and her treats are carefully monitored to ensure she stays healthy.
- Dot will only visit Mendip Green a few days a week so she has plenty of time to rest and play.
- Dot has grown up surrounded by children and other dogs – she is very well socialised and calm.
- When she is at school, Dot is allowed to roam free around the office. Outside the office, she is kept on a lead and accompanied by an adult.
- Her interactions with children are supervised by an adult at all times.

For our full risk assessment, please visit our school website.