Mouse

Mendip Green School

School Dog Passport

Meet Mouse!

Name: Mouse

Mouse has a number of nicknames including Moose, Mousey, Mousemouse and Mouse Potato. However, she is fairly sure her name is 'Oh no – Leave It!' or possibly 'Be Quiet!'

Breed: Coton De Tulear

This might be Latin for 'small fluffy rain cloud' or 'marshmallow-pooch'… we are unsure.

Date of Birth: 12th December 2024

All About Mouse…

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. There, I get lots of cuddles and treats, and play with my other doggy friends whilst she is at school.

What do you like to do? I love playing with Dot. She is my best friend in the whole world! I love to chew her ears and chew her paws. I am pretty sure she loves this too. We play chase and smoosh face and have zoomies together. I love tennis balls and toys, especially chewy ones and noisy ones. I love running around and jumping off things. I like having tickles under my chin and gentle strokes.

How would Mr Oakley describe you? Chatty! I like to tell the grown-ups in the office all about the sounds I can hear. He says I am funny. He lets me climb on his lap, and sit on his coat. He even shares his lunch with me and plays music for me (although he won't let me pick the songs). I think he loves me the most.

What do you like the most about Mendip Green?

- I love that the children understand that I am still learning and can be a bit nervous. They are very kind to me and let me sniff their shoes and hands without trying to touch me. This makes me feel safe and calm.
- I love the staffroom because there are so many yummy treats in there. The grown ups share their lunch with me when Miss Walton is not looking.
- I love Mrs Kus' special treat drawer. I sit by it every morning when I first come into school.
- Mr West sits on the floor with me and plays really fun games.

Are you ever naughty?

That depends what you mean by naughty… does barking at hats and climbing on Mr O's desk and eating a bowl of sausage count as being naughty? Because I would never do that – it was definitely Dot!

- I may have chewed Mr O's bag zip and coat zip a few times. I don't think he knows about this so it probably doesn't count.
- I really like pulling all the yellow fluff off tennis balls and leaving it all over the floor. Miss Walton then has to pick it up.
- When I get a bit silly, Miss Walton puts me in Desk Jail. Desk Jail is very boring. I try to get out of Desk Jail by pressing all the buttons on her laptop and tapping her with my paw over and over again.
- Sometimes I get bits of my dinner under the sofa or drawers. I make sure the grown ups know I have lost 1 piece of biscuit and will starve without it. I make sure they stop work and move the furniture to reunite me with my lost biscuit.

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. I also have Mrs Baxendale, Mrs Poole, Mrs Sandford and Mrs Hodgson who look out for me in the office.
- The grownups keep the office spaces clean and tidy so there is nothing on the floor that I could find and eat… I am very good at finding things (like Lego) and making a mess with my toys, so I keep them busy.
- 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. If it is busy, I can get a bit worried so my grown up will carry me.
- All of the grownups use kind hands, kind feet and kind words. They give me gentle stokes on my back, tickles under my chin and take me for walks around the school – I love quietly watching what everyone is doing.

What is your favourite food? I love all food! Everything! I especially like treats out of Mrs Kus' special treat drawer. If you have cheese, you have to share it with me.

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

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 most days to stop my fluff from knotting. Every two weeks, Miss Walton plonks me in the bath. I REALLY do not like having a bath and I only like being dried and brushed when it is Dot's turn (not when it is my turn).

Who is your best friend? My best human friend is Miss Walton. My best doggy friends are Dot, Lady Bug and Bean Bag. I love to run around with Beans – he is so fast. Bug plays tug of war with me which is one of my favourite games. I like to snuggle with Dot. I will get as close as I can: sometimes I forget that I am bigger than her and sit on her but Dot is very patient with me.

Do you sleep in school? I always have naps at school – I snooze on laps, sofas, floors, chairs and laptops. I will also have a snooze in my Mouse House under Miss Walton's desk. After school, I go home with Miss Walton – I play, have my hair brushed and eat my dinner before bedtime.

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. Dot is quite a small Coton. Mouse is a lot bigger.
- 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 almost completely white (or silvery grey in Mouse's case).
- 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 Mouse with Dot

Health & Safety

Mouse has been visiting Mendip Green since she was 5 months old. This was very gradual at first. She got used to quiet spaces in the offices and explored the main buildings in the evening. We wanted to make sure that Mouse enjoyed coming to school and was not worried by any of the sights, smells and noises. Mouse is being gradually introduced to the children. She is still a little nervous so will spend most of her time in the office, but she is getting braver and braver all the time.

- Mouse 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.
- Mouse has 3rd party liability and health insurance.
- Mouse is bathed every 2 weeks and brushed daily. She visits the groomers every 6 weeks to keep her coat and nails short.
- Mouse is fed a diet recommended by the vets and her treats are carefully monitored to ensure she stays healthy.
- Mouse will only visit Mendip Green a few days a week so she has plenty of time to rest and play.
- Mouse has grown up surrounded by children and other dogs – she is very well socialised.
- When she is at school, Mouse 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.