



Animal Welfare Policy

1. Scope

As an organisation, we have adopted the provision of the [2006 Animal Welfare Act](#) and RSPCA recommended standards, which apply to pets and those responsible for domestic animals, e.g. breeders, those who have working animals or farm animals in England and Wales. We have also adopted the [5 European conventions](#) on animal welfare.

2. Animal Welfare Act

Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act places a duty of care on people to ensure they take reasonable steps in all the circumstances to meet the welfare needs of their animals to the extent required by good practice.

In short, it means those responsible for animals, must take positive steps to ensure they care for their animals properly and in particular must provide for the five welfare needs, which are the need:

- For a suitable environment.
- For a suitable diet.
- To be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns.
- To be housed with, or apart, from other animals.
- To be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

Advice on how this should be achieved is available on the RSPCA [advice and welfare pages](#).

3. Animal Welfare Standards

We and partner organisations agree to abide by these where possible and to work towards achieving these where it is not initially achievable.

4. Pets

We have adopted the Defra standards for [Dogs](#)

5. UK Regulatory Guidance

- DEFRA - [UK Animal Welfare](#).
- Association of Dogs and Cat Homes - [Minimum Welfare & Operational Standards](#).

6. How These Will Be Met

Welfare Standards

We and any organisations that we work with will maintain procedures to:

- Identity any of our dogs in need of help and make decisions to support their welfare in conjunction with their owners.
- Ensure that volunteers present their dogs fit and healthy for visits.
- Ensure volunteers treat their dogs with respect and care.
- Ensure our volunteers take their dogs to a vet at least once a year for an annual check-up and when they need medical assistance.
- Ensure that our dogs are flea and worm treated as necessary.
- Ensure that our dogs are up to date with any vaccinations or are titre tested annual.

Skills & Experience

- Shaun Brister of Staveley Vets is a vet advisor to Jack and Pals Therapy Dogs and will advise and support our organisation as needed.
- Holly Adgo of Cultured Canines is a behaviourist and will advise and support our organisation as needed.
- Members' own vets should provide any specialist care to their own dogs

7. Regulatory Guidance

DEFRA - [UK Animal Welfare](#).

EU – [Conventions on Animal Welfare](#).

Association of Dogs and Cat Homes - [Minimum Welfare & Operational Standards](#).

Global Animal Law Association – [Legislation Database](#).

World Animal Protection – [Animal Protection Index](#).

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or following a serious incident, whichever comes first.

9. Adopted 1st September 2026

Review Date: 1st September 2027

Signed: Wendy Withington
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