



Signing Up to the UK Dog Behaviour and Training Charter

To be considered as a Charter member:

Stage 1

1. Applicants must adhere to the Charter principles as published on the website and outlined below.
2. Organisations wishing to sign up to the Charter, and use the Charter Member logo, should be dog behaviour or training organisations working within the UK and having been established for over two years.
3. Organisations must support and monitor their accredited members independently of the Charter group, and as far as is reasonably possible, take responsibility for their professional conduct and behaviour.
4. Organisations should ensure that any members on their directory of professionals are appropriately accredited and listed accordingly.
5. Organisations must openly pledge not to endorse correction-based training devices or aversive stimuli that work through eliciting a withdraw reflex/response and/or an alarm reaction, and/or that cause pain and/or fear.

This includes shock collars/equipment, spray/citronella collars, anti-bark collars, prong collars and check/choke chains. This policy must be referenced in their codes with clear guidance to members and potential clients.

6. Organisations must have a robust, clearly defined and fully transparent complaints and grievance procedure.
7. In the case of appeals, or if an organisation feels they can't conduct an internal appeal, they agree to be bound by the decision of the Charter group Oversight Committee.



8. Each organisation should have policies in place to deal with any bullying and harassment complaints against their members, both within their organisation and also the wider profession.
9. Each organisation should have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy in line with the UK Equality Act (2010).
10. For a member organisation to appear on the Charter website, they must have current, ongoing and appropriate Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) membership and maintain that at all times during their Charter group membership. They must also understand and work within relevant GDPR guidelines.
11. Charter member organisations should ensure their members are fully covered with the relevant professional and personal insurance for all aspects of their work (including public liability insurance and professional indemnity insurance).
12. The organisation must submit relevant procedures and policies (from 5. to 11.) to the Charter Group as part of their application.
13. Charter member organisations are responsible for keeping their own member lists up to date.
14. Member organisations who accredit their own members must either reassess their members regularly or monitor and check relevant CPD.
15. Organisations and their members should actively promote good professional conduct toward other professionals, organisations, clients and all stakeholder groups.
16. Organisations should endeavour to ensure their members recognise the limits of their knowledge and experience, know when to refer to other professionals, and not make performance guarantees



Stage Two

For organisations who fulfil the above criteria, membership applications should be made in writing (with any supporting evidence) to contact@dogcharter.uk.

These applications will be assessed by the membership committee before being brought to the next Board meeting for approval. Organisations who comply with the Eligibility Criteria as set out above will be provisionally approved for membership - however any new member needs 100% Board approval. Rejected applications can re-apply once the grounds for rejection have been addressed

Organisations can sign up to the Dog Charter if they comply with the principles of the charter as outlined below. Annual membership is £250 p.a. and a non-refundable fee of £50 should be paid along with application which will be deducted from membership if accepted as members.

Member organisations will be included on the Charter website and can use the UK Dog Charter logo, as can their fully accredited members.

Applications should be made to contact@dogcharter.uk.