



UK Dog Behaviour and Training Charter - Organisational Code of Ethics/Practice/Conduct.

1. All Signatory Organisations that sign the Charter are expected to have their own Code of Ethics/Practice/Conduct (now known as codes) in line with the standards of the Charter. Current editions of these codes will be presented to the Charter co-ordinator ahead of being accepted as a signatory.
2. The Signatory Organisation Codes must be transparent and easily available to the public via the Signatory Organisation website. There will also be links to the documents on the Charter website.
3. Signatory Organisations must be seen to promote good professional conduct towards other professionals, clients and organisations. This should be referenced in their codes with clear guidance to members.
4. Signatory Organisations must have a robust and clearly defined complaints and grievance procedure. This must be clearly accessible on the Signatory Organisation website.
5. Signatory Organisations are responsible, for their own accredited members in relation to their Codes, and Complaints and Grievance Procedure.
6. Signatory Organisations will deal with all complaints and grievances in a thorough, transparent, and systematic way. Evidence-based records should be kept and presented to the Charter Oversight Committee in the cases of arbitration or appeal.
7. Signatory organisations have the right to refuse membership or remove a member who does not comply with that organisation's Codes and/or has gone through a complaints procedure that has been upheld.
8. For those Signatory Organisations that cover multi-species or who also work outside the UK, the directives outlined in this Charter only apply to those who work with dogs as full or part of their workload within the UK.

B - Assessment, support and monitoring of accredited members

1. Membership to the Charter is via Organisation only
2. Organisations have the responsibility to ensure members undertake relevant CPD to keep their knowledge and skill set current and up to date with the latest methods and understanding.
3. Organisations should ensure all members are aware of relevant legislation with regards to animal welfare and other laws relating to dogs (such as, but not restricted to the Animal Welfare Act 2006)
4. Organisations must make sure all members maintain professional insurance to gain and retain membership.

C - Accepted methodologies

1. Signatory Organisations must use compassionate, holistic, non-punitive and science-led methods which are not designed to deliberately cause pain, fear, intimidation or that could cause psychological damage to the dog.
2. This is underpinned by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 - with special reference to Section 4 – unnecessary suffering, and recognises the prohibited tools in section D of this charter. The Charter also recognises any additional directives given from the devolved powers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



3. Signatory Organisations should ensure as part of their accreditation procedures that all practitioners understand the need for the physical, mental and emotional needs of the dog to be central to all training plans.

D - Expected and prohibited tools and equipment

1. Signatory Organisations publicly pledge not to endorse correction-based remote 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/e-equipment, remote or dog-activated spray collars, and anti-bark collars. This should be referenced in their codes with clear guidance to members.
2. Signatory Organisations must also not endorse the following training tools; choke/check chains and prong collars. This should be referenced in their codes with clear guidance to members.

E - Charter Organisation - Oversight Committee

1. This Charter will be overseen by an independent Charter Oversight Committee. This committee will have the responsibility to ensure signatory organisations are fulfilling their obligations to both their own Codes and the commitments detailed in the Charter.
2. The founder Charter Group members/committee will be responsible for choosing members of the Charter Oversight Committee and they will be independent professionals in good standing.
3. Any complaints that have been investigated by a Member Organisation that have been appealed against will be looked at by the Oversight Committee who will make an independent judgement.*
4. The Oversight Committee are also available to investigate complaints that any of the Member Organisations feel unable to independently investigate internally (conflict of interest etc)

* Complaints/grievances should initially be passed to member organisations for action by their own procedures. Should those procedures need extra arbitration or if appealed, the evidence will be provided to the Oversight Committee. They will give guidance based on the evidence submitted with reference to the Member Organisations own Codes and the text of the Charter and inform the organisation of any actions to be taken. Failure to comply to the judgement of the Oversight Committee may lead to private advisory notice from the Oversight Committee, followed by a public advisory and finally a temporary removal as a charter signatory until the matter is resolved, upon which the organisation can be re- instated into the charter.