

Code of Conduct for Membership of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes

At the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes we believe we are 'better together' for every dog and cat and that they should be free from abuse, neglect and abandonment, and through our member organisation be a place where people recognise the joy that giving a rescue animal a second chance of a happy life and a new home can bring. This vision and our mission are underpinned by strongly held and embedded organisational values, behaviours, policies and procedures.

The Code of Conduct for membership sets out the expectations we have of our Members and applicants. 'Members' and 'applicants' in this document refers to any member of ADCH whether they are admitted as Full Members, Provisional Members, Affiliate Members, or submitted an application to join ADCH.

The requirements and standards contained in this Code of Conduct are here to provide a safe, inclusive and collaborative environment for rescues with parallel aims, improving the lives of dogs and cats. We are a respected communal voice for our sector and our strong reputation is a key to allowing us to continue to speak on behalf of our members. It is the responsibility of us all to ensure our behaviour is consistent with the values and principles of ADCH.

A breach of this Code of Conduct may result in loss of ADCH membership. Where required, could lead to criminal prosecution or notification to other public bodies and/or regulatory bodies. By applying to join, or joining, ADCH your rescue undertake to work and behave in accordance with the requirements of this conditions, and so contribute to the delivery of ADCH's vision, the promotion of our values and the protection of our reputation.

In my application and admittance to ADCH, our rescue will:

1. Treat all other members and applicants with respect for their organisation, staff, volunteers, animals and their work.
2. Not share or distribute any images which include poor animal welfare, unless for the purposes of campaigning and advocacy against the concern.
3. Be courteous and non-accusatory in communications with other members and applicants, both in public and in private.
4. Treat all animals and people with respect and dignity, value equality and diversity, and refrain from and challenge any form of harassment, bullying, abuse, discrimination, exploitation, or harm of any kind whether in person, by phone, in writing, email, social media (ADCH has a social media policy, available here) or other forms of electronic media.
5. Protect and be careful, responsible and ethical in the handling and use of information, experiences and data given by other applicants and members, except where it has been expressly permitted to share
6. As an admitted member, carry out Annual Returns and self-assessments by the given deadlines, and facilitate external assessments when due (as per ADCH's Standard Operating Procedures, available on the website).

Agreement

By submitting an application for membership, or continuing our membership by paying annual membership fees, our organisation commits to acting in accordance with this Code of Conduct.