

CANINE ALLIES CIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

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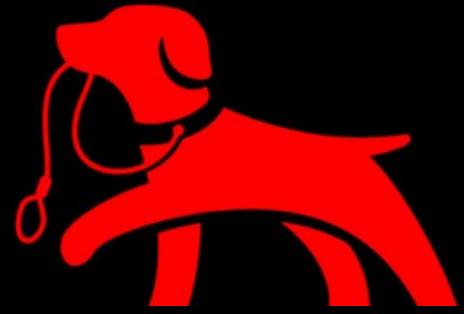
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1. Introduction & Purpose

Canine Allies CIC is committed to delivering safe, inclusive, and welfare-focused assistance dog training services, both online and in-person. This Health & Safety Policy sets out how we protect the health, safety, and welfare of staff, volunteers, members, visitors, and dogs during all Canine Allies CIC activities.

This policy should be read in conjunction with any specific risk assessments and training-specific procedures. The aim is to minimise risks arising from training activities, public interactions, facilities, and any other organisational functions.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all:

- Staff and trainers
- Volunteers
- Handlers & their dogs
- Visitors to training venues or events
- Dogs participating in training activities

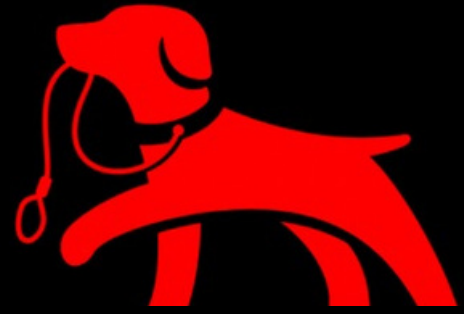
3. Responsibilities

3.1 Management

- Ensure compliance with health and safety legislation applicable in the UK.
- Provide clear roles and responsibilities for health and safety matters.
- Ensure adequate resources, training, and equipment for safe operations.
- Review this policy at least annually or after significant incidents.

3.2 Trainers, Staff & Volunteers

- Follow safe working practices.
- Report hazards, injuries, or 'near miss' incidents immediately.
- Ensure training activities meet welfare standards and do not endanger handlers, dogs, or the public.
- Understand and follow risk assessments relevant to their duties.



3.3 Members & Handlers

- Comply with instructions from trainers and safety guidance.
- Ensure their own dog is fit for training and has current veterinary care.
- Report any concerns during training sessions promptly.
- Respect the safety and welfare of other people and dogs.

4. General Safety Principles

4.1 Training Safety

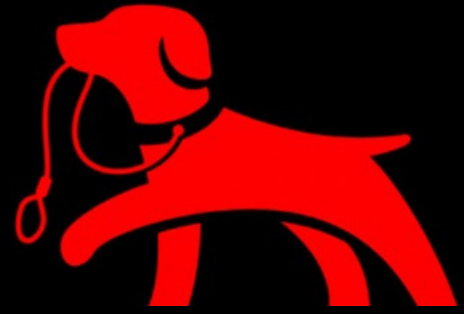
- All training must prioritise the welfare of the dog and the handler's safety.
- A risk assessment must be carried out for each training type and location before commencement.
- Dogs showing signs of distress, illness, or unfit for training must not participate until cleared by a vet or trainer.
- Training exercises must be suitable for the physical and emotional capabilities of the dog.
- Equipment used must be in good condition, appropriate, and safe. (E.g., leads, harnesses, collars).

4.2 Venue Safety

- Ensure training venues are safe, free from hazards, and suitable for canine activities.
- Access routes, floors and surfaces must be regularly checked for risks (slip/trip hazards, unsafe terrain).
- Emergency exits and first-aid equipment must be accessible and known to participants.

4.3 Welfare & Behaviour

- Use training methods that are humane, science-based, and non-aversive. Any training technique or equipment causing unnecessary pain, fear or distress is prohibited. Handlers and trainers should be alert to canine body language and behaviour; dogs must be given breaks, water, and rest as required. Dogs must be under effective control at all times.



5. Public Health & Infection Control

- Handlers must ensure their dog is up to date with vaccinations, parasite control, and general health checks (minimum standards expected).
- If a dog is ill or potentially infectious (e.g., diarrhoea, vomiting, skin conditions), it must not attend training until recovery.
- Hand hygiene – especially after dog contact – must be encouraged.

6. Injuries, Incidents & Reporting

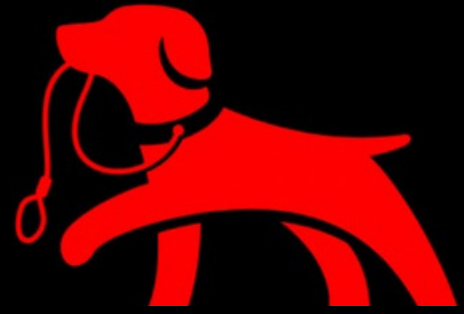
- All accidents, injuries, or near misses involving people or dogs must be reported immediately to the session lead.
- A documented Incident Report Form must be completed within 24 hours.
- Management will investigate significant incidents and take corrective action to prevent recurrence.

7. Risk Assessment

- Prior to any in-person activities, relevant risk assessments must be completed and approved.
- Assessments must consider: environment (public places, training venues), other animals/people present, weather conditions, equipment used, accessibility for handlers, and emergency contingencies.

8. Emergency Procedures

- Staff must be familiar with emergency contact numbers and local emergency vets for each training location.
- For serious injuries or dangerous situations, call emergency services immediately (999 in the UK) and secure the scene.
- Trainers are responsible for documenting what happened and assisting those affected.



9. Training & Competence

- All Canine Allies CIC staff, volunteers, and trainers must receive adequate health and safety induction.
- Specific training in canine behaviour, risk management, and emergency response may be required.

10. Review & Continuous Improvement

- This policy will be reviewed at least annually or after a significant incident.
- Feedback from staff, volunteers, handlers, and trainers will inform improvements.
- Legal and best-practice developments in animal welfare and organisational safety will be monitored.