



Code of Practice

Effective Date: May 2014

Revision Date: July 2016

Introduction

SPPOT, a Community Interest Company, has very high standards about the way we treat people and animals. This Code of Practice sets out exactly what is expected of everyone at SPPOT.

Reason for Policy

To ensure we treat all people and animals with dignity and respect.
To ensure that SPPOT is regarded as an organisation with high ethical standards, in our community and beyond.

Who?

The whole SPPOT Team

Principles

The SPPOT Team shall be responsible in their work with customers, customers' dogs, learners, trainees, all people we work with and society in general.

The SPPOT Team will uphold high ethical standards in relation to the care and welfare of their own pet animals and any other animals they own.

Their actions or advice should not knowingly cause upset or harm to any person or animal.

The welfare of customers, learners, volunteers, staff and the dogs we work with is SPPOT's main concern.

The SPPOT Team will be professional with their clients at all times.

The SPPOT Team shall respect the views and opinions of other people.

The SPPOT Team will not try to get work or money for SPPOT unfairly or improperly.

The SPPOT Team will keep learning and training so they can be the best team possible.

Practice

The training methods and/or equipment advised, employed or sold by The SPPOT Team shall be kind and fair to both customers and dogs, in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the APDT UK.

Techniques and equipment which hurt or frighten dogs should not be used, recommended, advertised or sold by any member of the SPPOT Team (Appendix 1.)

The dog training techniques employed and advised by the SPPOT Team will be kind, effective and fair.

The SPPOT Team will be truthful and honest with customers and each other.

Appendix 1

Harsh and cruel equipment which must not be used includes:

- Check/choke chains,
- Prong or spike collars,
- Electric shock devices in any form, and high frequency sound devices which are designed to startle.
- Half check collars fitted so as to cause tightening around the neck.

- Pet corrector - emits a hiss of cold air
- Dog stop - emits a high pitched sound
- Remote controlled spray collars
- Automatically triggered spray collars
- Anti-bark collar - emits spray directed onto dogs skin (including new product jet master)
- Training discs
- Liquid sprays
- Loud noises e.g. rattle cans/bottles/Chains/keys
- Throw stick/chain
- Strong smelling substances e.g. smelling salts/ bite back
- Anything else that causes pain, fear or distress

Methods not to be used in handling any dog

- Pinching - ears/feet/toes
- Hitting
- Shouting at
- Biting (of dog)
- 'Alpha roll'
- Any handling techniques that causes pain or discomfort

Adjudication

If anyone is suspected of breaking the Code of Conduct the Directors will investigate fairly and thoroughly.

If a SPOT Team member is found guilty of cruelty, neglect or other crime(s) against any animal(s) or person(s) their association with SPOT will be immediately terminated.

Alteration

This code may be altered by the committee of the SPPOT, A Community Interest Company provided that the proposed alteration is notified to all members and their comments requested and duly considered by the committee.

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