



## **Health & Safety Policy Oxford Dog Training Society**

### **Awareness Of Canine Signals.**

Understanding the signals given by, and the 'body language' of, a dog is the most important 'tool' and responding to it appropriately is key and can ensure protection for both the public, the handler and the dog itself. Therefore those who are familiar with and have a good understanding of dog behaviour and 'body language' are the most appropriate to deal with such situations.

A wagging tail doesn't always mean a dog is pleased or happy. Nervous or aggressive dogs can react negatively to both humans and other dogs. Owners of such dogs should make sure training staff are made aware of such things and if need be take preventative measures (such as a muzzle).

**If in doubt do not touch a dog. It may be some dogs are not suitable for group training environments if this is the case then the trainer will advise the owner.**

### **Fire Safety.**

All those using any premises on which training takes place should make themselves aware of the location of exits in case of fire. They should also make themselves aware of the location of fire extinguishers. No person should operate a fire extinguisher if they do not understand its correct operation as it could lead to serious injury. In the event of a fire all those using the building should evacuate using the nearest safe exit. **DO NOT re-enter any building no matter what.**

### **Training Venues.**

Training of dogs is carried out at the Sea Cadets Hall. In the event of training being conducted at any outside location then all relevant local regulations must be met. This will include dog fouling laws, possible restricted access as well as the fact that dogs may be required to be kept on leads. If the trainer decides to conduct a class externally, they will be aware of and make sure such local regulations are followed.

Sensible shoes should always be worn to training sessions, as this will help prevent the risk of slip or fall.

### **Equipment.**

All equipment used by Oxford Dog Training Society should be stored safely. All those who use any equipment supplied by Oxford Dog Training Society should be instructed on how to use it safely. All equipment should be in a good condition and fit for purpose.

### **Events.**

At any event either run by Oxford Dog Training Society or attended by it in an official capacity, all dogs must be kept under control by their owners. Where Oxford Dog Training Society will be

attending an external event in an official capacity, a risk assessment must have been carried out and filed.

### **Hazards.**

Hazards should be identified and eliminated in a timely manner. At each lesson doors/ fire doors and flooring should be checked.

### **First Aid.**

Club will supply a First Aid kit for its members. Members should make aware to the trainer of any potential illnesses/allergies.

### **Incident Book.**

Oxford Dog Training Society will keep an incident book and record in it any injuries or incidents to/or involving training staff, members, animals or the public. We will endeavour to make sure that such accidents or incidents are not repeated.

### **Insurance.**

Oxford Dog Training Society shall make sure that all relevant insurances are up to date and that premiums are paid. Insurance should cover both public and employer liability, and employer liability insurance certificate should be on display at all training sessions. All insurance arrangements should be reviewed on an annual basis and any relevant adjustments made.

### **Health & Safety Officer.**

Oxford Dog Training Society will appoint a Health & Safety Officer who's job it will be to make sure that the Health & Safety Policy is enforced. This should ideally be a member of the Training Staff as they are the ones dealing with the dogs and training.