



Animal Welfare Coalition of Alberta

### **Animal Welfare Coalition of Alberta Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct is our set of rules for behaviour and guiding principles to ensure our members are acting ethically and honestly in dealing with the public and each other. It reflects our commitment to animal welfare and improving our public image.

Definition of a “Member” : a rescue organization, humane society, SPCA or animal welfare agency operating in Alberta and the Code of Conduct will apply to all board members, staff and volunteers.

- The Member is required to ensure their personal and professional dealings are conducted in an honest and ethical manner and are free of any deceitful, fraudulent, disrespectful or illegal activities.
- The Member operates in compliance with all municipal, provincial, and federal legislation.
- The Member has a volunteer Board of Directors who are not paid and meet regularly to conduct business for the charity.
- The Member and its staff, volunteers and board do not use their influence, their position in the organization, donations or gifts for personal gain or influence the activities of the coalition.
- The Member has a Conflict of Interest Policy.
- The Member agrees to model respectful behaviour, recognizing that philosophical differences exist and agrees to acknowledge these differences in a professional manner and work together towards achieving AWC’s goals.
- The Member agrees to not discriminate. AWC prohibits discrimination based on the grounds of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income and sexual orientation.
- The Member operates with a sufficient number of staff/volunteers and financial resources to ensure quality care for the animals in care, ability to cover all expenses, including unexpected veterinary expenses. The Member understands the limits of such resources and does not rescue more animals than it has space, time, or financial means to care for humanely.
- The Member refrains from unethical practices such as harvesting puppies and kittens without accepting the adults for adoption or not providing spay/neuter service of breeding adults that remain behind. The Member agrees to reach out to the coalition in situations where they are notified of a case they are not able to manage themselves.



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- The Member will respect all other members and not speak poorly of them. Should an issue arise the member will bring the issue directly to the other member or the AWC membership for discussion.
- The Member strives to ensure the following 5 freedoms are followed at all times:
  - Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water, and access to a diet that maintains health and vigor.
  - Freedom from pain, injury, or disease by preventing or rapidly diagnosing and treating medical issues.
  - Freedom to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and same species company.
  - Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.
  - Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment shelter and a comfortable resting area. (Reprinted with permission: Farm Animal Welfare Council, 2009).
- The Member will uphold the ethics and standards put in place by AWC to protect and care for animals, people and communities.

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the Code of Conduct and we agree to adhere and follow the above Standards and Code of Conduct.

I understand that violations may result in suspension or immediate expulsion from AWC. I understand that I will be requested on an annual basis to acknowledge the Standards and the Code of Conduct. I certify that this is a true and correct statement by my signature below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name (print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Position**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**