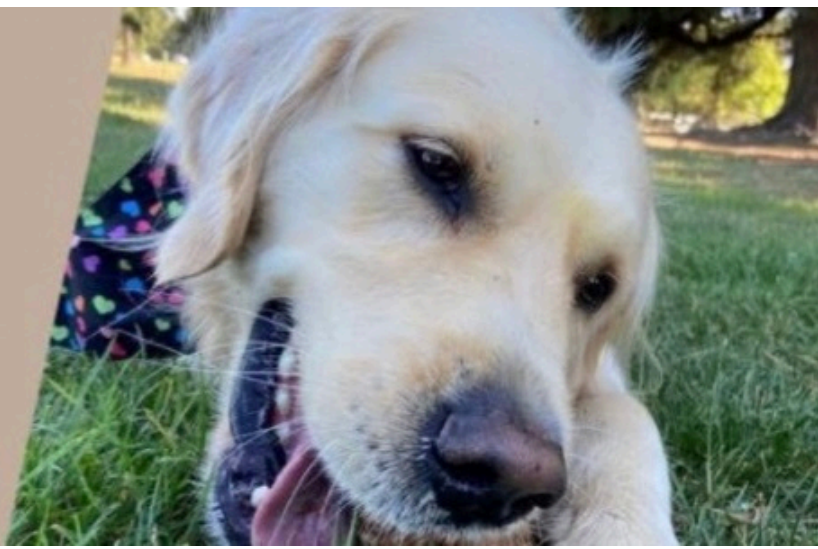




CPDW
CHRISTCHURCH PROFESSIONAL
DOG WALKERS INC



CPDW Inc

Code of Ethics – Member Practice Principles

Purpose

This Code of Ethics outlines the expected decision-making and conduct of CPDW Inc members when handling dogs in professional settings.

Members operate in shared public environments and must prioritise public safety, animal welfare, and responsible use of public space above commercial or personal interests.

Failure to comply with this Code may result in review under the Society's membership processes.

1. Duty of Care

A member must place the safety of the public and the welfare of dogs above business considerations.

A Member must refuse or cease services when:

- a dog cannot be safely managed
- the environment creates unacceptable risk
- the handler cannot maintain effective control
- group composition becomes unsafe

Continuing an activity known to present preventable risk is inconsistent with this Code.

2. Competency Responsibility

Members must operate within their experience and capability.

Members must:

- not accept dogs beyond their handling capability
- seek further education where required
- recognise behavioural warning signs
- refer serious behavioural cases to appropriate professionals

Experience alone does not replace professional judgement.

3. Welfare First Principle

Members must ensure handling and management practices **do not** compromise animal welfare.

Members must:

- remove dogs showing fear, distress, or behavioural deterioration
- avoid situations likely to cause conflict or over-arousal
- modify activities in extreme weather or hazardous conditions
- prevent chronic stress within group environments

Business convenience must never override welfare.

4. Honesty & Representation

Members must represent their services and dogs accurately.

Members must:

- not claim dogs are safe without supervision
- not guarantee behaviour outcomes they cannot control
- disclose relevant risks to clients
- not misrepresent training, experience, or certification

Providing misleading assurances about safety is a serious breach.

5. Accountability

Members are responsible for their own conduct and agree to cooperate with the Society's membership processes where concerns arise.

Members must:

- cooperate with CPDW Inc investigations
- provide truthful information
- accept review of conduct
- comply with imposed conditions

6. Community Responsibility

Members operate in public spaces shared with non-dog owners.

Members must:

- prevent nuisance or intimidation
- respect other park and pathway users
- avoid conflict situations
- promote responsible dog ownership

Membership carries an expectation of respectful use of shared public spaces.

7. Conflict of Interest

Members must not prioritise client expectations over safety.

Members should decline or modify services when

- a client requests unsafe group inclusion
- a dog is unsuitable for group activity
- group size exceeds safe handling capacity

Client pressure **does not** justify unsafe practice.

8. Reporting & Transparency

Members must be transparent when incidents occur.

Members must:

- report significant incidents to CPDW Inc
- inform owners of material safety issues
- not conceal behavioural risk

Failure to disclose known risk is misconduct.

9. Operational Safety and Transport Responsibilities

Members must manage transport, equipment, and operational environments in a manner consistent with canine welfare, public safety, and professional duty of care.

Vehicle Safety and Travel

Members transporting dogs should:

- transport dogs in a manner that prevents escape, injury, or uncontrolled movement within the vehicle
- use crates, barriers, or other appropriate containment systems suitable for the dog and vehicle configuration
- avoid transporting incompatible dogs together where this may create a safety risk
- ensure vehicles are ventilated and temperature-appropriate for canine welfare
- never leave dogs unattended in conditions that may risk overheating, distress, or escape

10. Vehicle Hygiene and Sanitation

Members must take reasonable steps to maintain a clean and hygienic transport environment, including:

- cleaning and sanitising transport areas as required
- promptly removing vomit, urine, faeces, or other biological waste from the vehicle
- managing odour and contamination to protect both canine health and public health
- ensuring transport surfaces and bedding are kept in a condition suitable for animal welfare

11. Equipment and Preparedness

Members should maintain operational equipment in safe working condition, including:

- leads, harnesses, long lines, and identification systems
- first aid supplies appropriate for canine emergencies
- emergency contact details for dog owners
- access to veterinary or emergency assistance when reasonably required

12. Operational Awareness

Members must exercise situational awareness when handling dogs in public and transitional environments, including:

- loading and unloading areas
- car parks and roadsides
- shared pathways and entrances
- interactions with members of the public

Members should position themselves and the dogs to minimise risk of escape, traffic interaction, or uncontrolled contact with people or animals.

13. Nature of this Document

This Code of Ethics forms part of the internal membership expectations of Christchurch Professional Dog Walkers Incorporated.

It does not grant licences, authorisations, exemptions, or permissions under any legislation or local authority bylaw. Each member operates independently and remains solely responsible for their own legal compliance and professional activities.

The Society does not supervise or control the day-to-day business operations of individual members.