

Cariad Dog Ethical Handling & Welfare Principles

1. Every Cariad Dog is recognised as an individual, sentient being and must be treated with compassion, dignity and respect at all times.
2. Participation in Cariad Dog activities should be a positive experience for both dog and person, supporting the dog's physical and emotional wellbeing as well as the human-animal relationship.
3. Dogs selected for wellbeing work must demonstrate a natural suitability and enjoyment of interaction. We do not seek to train dogs to tolerate a role for which they are not naturally comfortable.
4. Participation is always voluntary and dog-led. Every Cariad Dog has the freedom to choose whether to approach, engage, remain in or leave an interaction.
5. Handlers continually consent-check their dog, observing body language and behaviour throughout every visit to ensure the dog remains comfortable and willing to participate.
6. Dogs are never physically placed, held or pressured into interactions. They must be free to disengage and move away whenever they choose.
7. Food or treats are not used to lure or persuade a dog into an interaction. Engagement should arise from the dog's own willingness to participate.
8. Cariad Dog promotes reciprocity: wellbeing activities should provide a positive and enriching experience for the dog as well as benefiting the people they visit.
9. Dogs are never objectified or expected to participate in activities solely for human entertainment, including unnecessary dressing up, colouring fur or nails, or altering their appearance for visits.
10. Cariad Dog handlers recognise signs of stress, fear, fatigue, avoidance or discomfort and are expected to advocate for their dog's needs immediately, including pausing or ending an interaction or visit.
11. The dog's welfare always takes priority over completing a visit. No handler should feel under pressure to continue an activity when their dog indicates they have had enough.