



WAFA POLICIES:

CODE OF

PRACTICE:

PROFESSIONALS

PREAMBLE



Animals play a beneficial role in the health and wellbeing of humans across many walks of life. We work with a range of working animals, including Assistance, Therapy, Detection, Education and beyond. We are proud to collaborate with a variety of professionals with diverse range of education, training, knowledge, skills, expertise and accreditation, including individuals with lived experience. This requires the establishment of a Code of Practice to protect the health, welfare and wellbeing of all humans and animals involved in the Working Animals sector.

This Code of Practice provides a framework for applying the core values, principles, and standards of the Working Animals Federation of Australia (WAFA) which exists to guide industry professionals in their interactions with Working Animals. It describes a set of overarching ethical principles which include privacy and confidentiality, accountability, transparency, integrity, honesty, fairness, respect and best practice. Detailed recommendations on peer-reviewed and best-practice evidence-based interventions are addressed separately in a variety of documents including the Code of Ethics and Professional Standards.

**THIS CODE OF PRACTICE APPLIES TO ALL MEMBERS
OF THE WORKING ANIMALS FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA.**

This Code of Practice will be subject to periodic amendments with amendments being communicated through updates to the Working Animals Federation of Australia website. All members should ensure that they are up to date on the most recent version of the Code of Practice which should be cited as follows:

Working Animals Federation of Australia (WAFA). (2021). Code of Practice – Professionals.

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VERSION: 1.4**

CODE OF PRACTICE

As a member of the Working Animals Federation of Australia (WAFA) I agree to maintain the reputation of the WAFA by acting with good faith, professionalism and courtesy in all interactions, including those undertaken online and on social media.

In my work I will seek to treat all people equally and with respect. I will employ honesty and integrity in all my work without any form of deception, impropriety, discrimination, fraud and violence or other malpractice. I will disclose any conflict of interest to the WAFA and any other affected party at the earliest opportunity and refrain from disparaging any person or organization.

I will undertake my work with the highest integrity and ensure all my decisions are informed by the best interests of the animals in my charge. I will seek to extend myself personally and professionally by undertaking a variety of continuing professional development opportunities to expand my personal knowledge and enhance best-practice across the industry.

CODE OF PRACTICE

I will always act in the best interest of my clients and actively promote the use of positive reinforcement methods of training by promoting the highest standards of welfare in the industry. I will refrain from providing overly confident or false assurances to clients or employers by always providing an honest opinion backed by suitable reliable, accurate and valid evidence.

I will seek to ensure the safety and welfare of all animals and humans with whom I interact and respect the privacy and confidentiality of all peoples. I will actively work to create an inclusive environment for all people by avoiding discrimination and oppression. I will treat all people with equality regardless of their race, colour, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin or citizenship status.

I will work within my professional limits and agree to refer clients and animals to other suitably qualified, accredited and experienced professionals when necessary. I will avoid disparaging colleagues and work collectively and collaboratively with industry professionals for the betterment of the industry with a high level of proficiency and competency.

I will work to proactively promote the WAFA and promote science-based, proven animal training and behaviour principles to a high, professional standard to benefit all animals and humans, working within the realms of the current federal, state and territory laws of Australia with respect to animal training and welfare. I will not make any public statement on behalf of the WAFA, nor portray myself as a representative of the WAFA, without first obtaining express written permission from the WAFA to do so. I agree to accept any rulings made by the WAFA and abide by all Codes of Ethics, guidelines and standards produced by the WAFA.

CODE OF PRACTICE

I will exercise due regard for my clients when enacting fees and pricing, and refrain from price gouging and other associated practices.

The WAFA has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, acts of hate, acts of violence, bullying, sexual harassment, coercion, intimidation, or any act of that impedes or interferes with any person's civil rights. As such, I understand that failure to abide by these principles will result in my immediate suspension from the organization and face permanent termination.



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