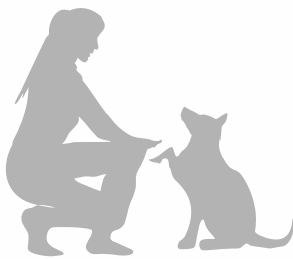




Animal Therapies LTD
Animals Helping Humans

Code of Conduct Summary of Themes



Authored by: Brylee O'Neil and Wing Chuen Tsang

Supported by: Wendy Coombe



**SCAN TO VIEW ATL'S
FULL CODE OF CONDUCT**



Developed in partnership with students from the Department of Occupational Therapy, Monash University, 2025.

For more information please visit ATL's Code of Conduct.



ATL's Code of Conduct is subject to annual review. Any amendments will be communicated to ATL members through updates on the ATL website. All members must ensure that they are up-to-date on the most recent version of The Code. The current Code is available at www.animaltherapies.org.au.

National Scientific Advisory Group

Associate Professor Susan Hazel – Chair, University of Adelaide

Wendy Coombe – Founder, Animal Therapies Ltd

Associate Professor Carlie Driscoll – University of Queensland

Dr Tiffani Howell – La Trobe University

Christine Milner – Skills Insight Jobs and Sills Council

Dr Janette Young – University of South Australia (Retired)

Dr Rachel Hogg – Charles Sturt University

Additional Members of Original Steering Group

Cheri Allanby – True Trails, Tasmania

Claire Dickson – Assistance Dogs Australia

Melinda Farrell – Delta Society Australia

Dr Mandy Paterson – RSPCA QLD

Dr Jess Hill – University of Queensland

Disclaimer

Animal Therapies Ltd does not warrant, guarantee, or ensure that compliance with these standards will prevent any or all injury, loss, or litigation that may be caused by or associated with any person's engagement in animal-assisted services. Nor is any responsibility or liability assumed for any such injury or loss.

This document does not detail the requirements of local and state laws pertaining to animal welfare, animal management, animal-assisted services, assistance animals, or environmental impact management. It is the responsibility of persons delivering and utilizing these services to ensure compliance with all of these legal obligations.

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What is ATL's Code of Conduct?

A set of best-practice guidelines ensuring **safe and ethical standards** in animal-assisted services.



Protects the wellbeing of **clients, animals, professionals, and volunteers** involved in the service.

What Does it Include?



Program Management



Training & Assessment



Handler Responsibilities



Animal Welfare

Why is it Important?



Promotes **credibility and professionalism** in the sector.



Ensures **ethical treatment of animals** and fosters trust in services.



Aligns with ATL's mission to advance **mental health, disability management, and well-being** through animal-assisted services.

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Animal Therapies LTD
Animals Helping Humans

A1: Program Management



Business practices

Employment matters



Insurance

Administration



Records management

Conflict of interest



Sustainability

Environmental impact



Informed consent

Research participation

A2: Training & Assessment



Handler & animal suitability



Qualifications



Mode of team assessment



Skills & behaviours included
in assessment



Assessment timeframes



Prohibited training equipment



Training methods

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For more information please visit Section A2 of ATL's Code of Conduct.



Animal Therapies LTD
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A3: Handler Responsibilities



Scope of practice

Foundational knowledge

Duty of care

Handler self-care

Evidence based practice

Continuing education

Responsible, respectful & humane animal ownership

Advocacy for animal welfare and wellbeing

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For more information please visit Section A3 of ATL's Code of Conduct.



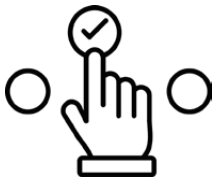
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A4: Animal Welfare & Wellbeing



Animal selection

Minimum age of animals



Vet consultation



Maximum working hours

Transportation

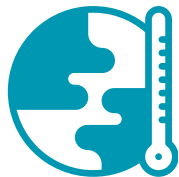


Nutrition & housing

Rest requirements

Temperature & environment

Retirement planning



B1: Trainer, Training Organisation, Breeder, & Foster Carer Responsibilities

Adherence with legislation



Base knowledge

Requirements for approved trainers



Qualifications & experience



Professional development

Client follow up



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For more information please visit Section B1 of ATL's Code of Conduct.



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Animals Helping Humans

B2: Handler Responsibilities

Adherence with
legislation



Duty of care

Certification



Animal registration

Veterinary care



Nutrition and housing

Transportation



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For more information please visit Section B2 of ATL's Code of Conduct.

These infographics were authored by Monash University Master's students Brylee O'Neil and Wing Chuen Tsang, with the support of ATL's founder Wendy Coombe and the National Scientific Advisory Committee.

They have been created to highlight the themes within ATL's Code of Conduct. Service providers and animal handlers should refer to each specific section of the Code of Conduct for more detailed information.



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