Animal Therapies LTD
Animals Helping Humans

Animal-Assisted Services Australia
Animals Helping Humans

Advancing the understanding, acceptance and accessibility of animal-assisted services for those in need.

ATL Code of Ethics

PREFACE

National Steering Group

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This Code of Ethics was ratified by the Board of Animal Therapies Ltd (ATL) at the board meeting of June, 2020.

The ATL Code of Ethics will be subject to periodic amendments. All amendments will be communicated to its members through updates on the ATL website. All members should ensure that they are up-to-date on the most recent version of the Code of Ethics. The current Code of Ethics is available at www.animaltherapies.org.au.

The Code of Ethics should be cited in text as “Animal Therapies Ltd Code of Ethics (2020)” and referenced as Animal Therapies Ltd. (2020). *Code of Ethics.* Brisbane, Queensland.

Any persons seeking clarification or further information regarding the Code of Ethics should contact:

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PREAMBLE

It has been widely acknowledged that animals may play a beneficial role in the health and wellbeing of humans. Australia has recently seen a rapid growth in animal-assisted services, provided by a wide variety of professionals with diverse training and expertise, and involving a range of different animals. Such necessitates the establishment of an ethical code to protect the wellbeing and welfare of all human and non-human animals involved in the sector.

This Code of Ethics aims to provide a framework for applying the core values, principles, and standards of Animal Therapies Ltd (ATL) and to guide members in their conduct with animals, clients, colleagues, and the broader community. It describes a set of overarching ethical principles in line with the organisation's purpose, vision, and values. These values include: Transparency, Health, Equality, Respect, Animal welfare and wellbeing, Partnerships, and Yielding Positive Outcomes.

The Code of Ethics does not contain detailed recommendations for good practice in animal-assisted services. Specific conduct codes are addressed in the *ATL Australian Code of Conduct for Animal-Assisted Services*.

CODE

As a member of Animal Therapies Ltd, I will:

1. Acknowledge that all life has an intrinsic value and will treat all people, animals, and the environment with respect, dignity, empathy, and compassion.
2. Consider the safety of all professionals, volunteers, clients, animals, and the general public by focusing on harm prevention and risk management at all times.
3. Be always mindful, and committed to the improvement, of animal welfare/wellbeing and human health, recognizing the importance of One Health-One Welfare (the acknowledgment that animal, human, and environmental health are intrinsically linked). Accordingly, I will refrain from prioritizing the rights and welfare of humans over that of animals engaged in animal-assisted services, and vice versa.
4. Maintain the excellence of ATL's reputation by demonstrating the highest standards of personal and professional accountability, integrity, commitment, and transparency in all activities.
5. Be informed and educated, committed to personal growth and professional skill development, and the provision of evidence-based practice in order to yield positive outcomes.
6. Support the sharing and dissemination of information, the promotion of professional education/training, and conducting of research for the benefit of the field.
7. Abide by the professional ethics and standards of my profession and only practice within the scope of this profession.
8. Ensure that I do not deceive or participate in dishonest or illegal activities, including the misrepresentation of my qualifications, training, expertise, competencies, achievements, and/or affiliations.
9. Work collegially with others, seek to understand differences in viewpoints and practices, and work in partnership toward common goals. I will not defame, harass, or engage in intemperate or unsubstantiated criticism of colleagues.
10. Respect the individuality of people and animals, being tolerant of and responsive to differences. I shall practice equality and not discriminate based on age, gender, origin, nationality, ethnicity, culture, language, religion or spiritual view, political beliefs, social or economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, health condition, or disability.
11. Recognise and value the unique cultural knowledge and skills, history, lived experiences, and community relationships of the people of First Nations, and endeavour to engage in culturally sensitive practices.

12. Promote inclusivity, accessibility, diversity, client autonomy, and self-determination.
13. Strive to prevent and respond (according to professional scope, policies, and sector compliances) to violence, neglect, abuse, exploitation, racism, and other forms of oppression, wherever and whenever encountered.
14. Comply with all ATL codes, standards, and guidelines, as well as local, state, and federal laws applicable to the field, as a condition of ATL membership.
15. Accept the responsibility of informing ATL of any perceived breaches of this Code and reporting to other relevant authorities as appropriate.