



President Mr J R Haddock

WIRRAL ALSATIAN TRAINING SOCIETY

CODE OF CONDUCT

Wirral Alsatian Training Society, as a Kennel Club registered society, wishes to ensure all involved in and/or attending any Society events are clear about the Society's expectations. To this end this Code of Conduct has been developed along with general guidelines on the use of Social Media and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

GENERAL CONDUCT

The Society expects all members, participants, exhibitors and competitors to behave in a responsible manner and to ensure that their dog (s) are properly taken care of throughout the duration of any event and do not become a nuisance to other dogs or other people attending training, meetings or any other event.

- ❖ Everyone attending any event has a duty both to their dogs and to others to make all events friendly and welcoming, and is expected to be co-operative and above all create a safe environment for all to enjoy their time at the event.
- ❖ All people should conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate fashion and display good manners and respect to all others, be they members, participants, trainers, judges or other officials.
- ❖ Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards any person at any event will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- ❖ Do not interfere with any dog whilst it is training, working, being exhibited or is under test.
- ❖ Smoking is not allowed whilst a dog is being worked, tested or exhibited
- ❖ If you have children with you please do not allow them to touch any dog unless you have permission from the owner/handler to do so.
- ❖ Individual dogs will be assessed by a trainer to ensure they are of sound temperament prior to participating in any Society activity.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The rapid growth of social media technologies combined with their ease of use and pervasiveness make them attractive channels of communication. However, these tools hold the possibility of a host of unintended consequences. The Society is not responsible for what individuals post on social media but the Society does expect any member using Social Media to do so in a mature, responsible and polite manner.

Following are a few general guidelines for all social media users:

- ✿ **Maintain privacy:** do not post confidential information. Do not discuss a situation involving named or pictured individuals without their permission.
- ✿ **Does it pass the publicity test:** if the content of your message would not be acceptable for face to face conversation, over the 'phone or in any other medium, then is it not acceptable for a social network site.
- ✿ **Think before you post:** If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it is wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear headed. There is no such thing as a 'private' social media site, even if you delete a post.
- ✿ **Be aware of liability:** You are responsible for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers could be held liable for content deemed to be libellous, obscene or which infringes copyright.
- ✿ **Correct mistakes:** If you make a mistake, admit it and apologise. Be upfront and be quick with your correction.
- ✿ **Respect others:** You are more likely to achieve your goals or sway others to your beliefs if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with a concept or person.
- ✿ **Respect your audience:** Do not use personal insults, obscenity, also show proper consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered sensitive. Users are free to discuss topics and disagree with one another, but be respectful of others' opinions.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The privacy of personal information is important to the Society and details can be found within the Privacy Statement on the Society's website.

The Society expects all its members, partners and other third parties it may from time to time contract with to abide by this Privacy Statement.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Nobody should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in fear of reprisal. Harassment is a criminal offence. To that end the Society adopts a zero tolerance towards any type of harassment activity.

Harassment may be defined as causing alarm, distress or anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat, offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats.

Whilst the pressures which arise at competitive events are understood, any aggression or abuse towards those who are simply undertaking their jobs for the benefit and interest of competitors/exhibitors and spectators cannot and will not be tolerated.

Conduct may include speech, obstruction, social media posts, misuse of personal information etc. and as such conduct may involve a criminal offence the police may be involved.

REPORTING AND RECORDING AN INCIDENT

Any incident considered to be an infringement of this Code of Conduct must be reported in writing to the Committee within two calendar months of the incident and provide full details of the incident including the date, time, place and those involved.

All incidents will be recorded in the relevant incident record book and, where deemed necessary, forwarded by the Committee to the appropriate body including but not exclusively, the Kennel Club and Information Commissioners Office.

This is in addition to Kennel Club requirements relating to reporting Incidents at Kennel Club events

COMMITTEE ACTION

Breaches of the Society's Code of Conduct will be treated seriously and may, after investigation, result in an individual being:

- ❖ Suspended from all Society activities for a period of 2-3 months as decided by the Committee. Any subsequent breaches may result in further suspension from Society activities.
- ❖ Prohibited from standing for Committee for up to three years as decided by the Committee.
- ❖ Subject to a Special General Meeting as outlined in item 10 of the Society's Constitution.

Where there is Kennel Club involvement the Society may defer any action pending the decision of the Kennel Club. The Kennel Clubs decision will be upheld by the Society.

Where there is police involvement, the Society may defer any action pending the outcome of investigation and/or prosecution.