

HOLISTIC HOUNDS

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

1. Introduction

This Policy covers all Holistic Hounds activities and services. Specific information is accentuated as follows:

- Dog training
- Dog therapy
- Horse therapy
- Human therapy
- Holistic health and nutritional advice
- Events/ Clinics/ Workshops
- Group training

2. General Policy to:

- Provide knowledge of Health and Safety requirements. Health and Safety procedures must be followed in order to ensure the well being of everyone involved at Holistic Hounds.
- Provide adequate control of the Health and Safety risks arising from our services and events.
- Provide Health and Safety information for those involved with all Holistic Hounds services and events.
- Prevent accidents where possible, and promote accident prevention amongst ALL participants.
- Review and revise this Policy at regular intervals.

3. Responsibility

The ultimate goal is to minimise risk as far as possible during any Holistic Hounds appointments or events. Everyone attending group training or therapy events have responsibilities, both

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separately and collectively as a group, to take care of the health and safety of themselves and others, and to co-operate in order to comply with any legal requirements. ALL those involved must:

- Co-operate on Health and Safety matters.
- Not interfere with any procedure, process, actions or equipment which safeguards Health and Safety.
- Take all reasonable care of their own Health and Safety.
- Report all Health and Safety concerns promptly to the relevant official. For example: Chief Steward, Company Director.
- Individual dog handlers are responsible for the welfare and conduct of their dogs and must carry out their own risk assessment of the tasks asked of their dogs during the event. Handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs and must take every possible precaution to prevent them from causing accidents or injury to themselves or others. In particular, owners should ensure that dogs are not left in vehicles with insufficient ventilation and without water (particularly in hot weather).

4. Event Risk Assessment

- Risks will be assessed by the relevant official before any event takes place – Chief Steward and/or Company Director.
- Any findings of risk assessments will be reported to, or by, the Chief Steward or Company Director.
- Assessments will be reviewed annually.
- Action required to remove and/or control risks will be approved by the Company Directors.
- An additional risk assessment should also be carried out immediately before an event begins (and during the event if conditions change materially after it has started), to ensure ground surfaces (including those on which dogs are exercised and compete) are sufficiently well maintained and visually safe in order to reduce factors that could

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lead to injuries; e.g. ice, snow, flooding, deep mud or sand, and rutted, slippery, or abrasive surfaces.

5. Vehicle Parking and Transport

Holistic Hounds will not take any responsibility for transport arrangements of those attending events, including any situations where vehicle insurance may or may not be valid.

6. First Aid

A first aid kit will be available at each event and one or more first aid officers appointed depending on the number of attendees/ spectators.

During training sessions and therapy consultations first aid will be given only under the direction of a medical professional (i.e. Paramedic, 111 operative, Vet, First Responder).

7. Accidents

All accidents are to be reported to the Director of Operations (Amber Calleran), who will be responsible for investigating accidents and act upon such findings to prevent a recurrence.

8. Safety Briefings

A briefing including an outline of safety measures must precede the start of every event. The event organiser should ensure that all present are made aware of any significant hazards as identified in a risk assessment for all Holistic Hounds events.

Everyone present at any Holistic Hounds service or event is expected to comply with the highest standards of safety and compliance with respect to their dogs, wildlife and the countryside in general. Any unsafe or inappropriate behaviour will result in instant dismissal from the service or

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event. Any person under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by a responsible adult and also abide by the above mentioned policy.

9. Weather

- In cases of extreme weather conditions, the event may have to be curtailed or cancelled.
- In hot, dry conditions training and therapy sessions may have to be shortened to a suitable duration deemed by the lead staff member.

10. Topography

The various grounds/ venues used for all Holistic Hounds services and events includes roads, park land, wooded areas and farm land. The terrain may be rugged so walking could prove difficult, and obstacles such as ditches, stiles, and streams might have to be negotiated – all can result in risk due to slipping, tripping, or falling.

- Everyone attending services or events are responsible for their own footwear which should be appropriate for all types of terrain.
- Clothing is also the responsibility of the individual and must be appropriate with regard to the prevailing weather conditions.
- Everyone must also be aware that a reasonable level of fitness is required during training sessions.

Holistic Hounds cannot accept responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property however occasioned.

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11. Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, the lead trainer or therapist will have a mobile phone to contact the emergency services if necessary. All best efforts will also be made to notify the listed emergency contact.

With regard to canine emergencies and a list of Veterinarian RCVS Accredited Practices located nearest the venue will be available from the lead trainer or therapist. All staff that are client facing are pet first aid trained, all best efforts will be made to provide first aid to any pets injured.

Any accidents will be recorded.

12. Reporting of hazards, incidents, accidents and near misses

Under RIDDOR, work-related accidents, diseases and dangerous occurrences must be correctly reported. This requirement covers all work activities but not all incidents.

The following are reportable if they arise out of or in connection with work:-

- Accidents which result in an employee or a self employed person dying, suffering major injury, or being absent from work or unable to do their normal duties for more than seven days.
- Accidents which result in a person not at work suffering an injury and being taken to a hospital, or if the accident happens at a hospital, suffering a major injury.
- An employee or self-employed person suffering one of the specified work-related diseases.
- One of the specified 'dangerous occurrences' - these do not necessarily result in injury but have the potential to do significant harm.

Reportable major injuries include:

- Fracture – other than fingers, thumbs or toes
- Amputation
- Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight
- Any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs
- Serious burns (including scalding) which:
- Covers more than 10% of the body
- Causes significant damage to the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs

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- Any scalping requiring hospital treatment
- Any loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia
- Any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which:
- Leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness
- Requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours

Reporting process

Death or Major Injury

If there is an accident connected with work and:

- A member of staff on premises is killed or suffers a major injury (including as a result of physical violence)
- A member of the public is killed or taken to hospital

You must notify the HSE Incident Contact Centre immediately on 0845 300 9923 by telephone. The Centre operator will ask for brief details about the injured person, the accident, and the person making the report. An incident form should be completed in line with the Incident Reporting Policy and any reference numbers should be identified on the form.

Keeping records

Records must be kept for a minimum of 7 years for any reportable injury, disease or dangerous occurrence. This must include the date and method of reporting; the date, time and place of the event; personal details of those involved, and a brief description of the nature of the event or disease.

13. The Public (and other users of the countryside)

Participants should be aware of possible risk or disturbance to others and should respect everyone's rights to lawfully and peacefully enjoy the countryside – for example horse riders, or walkers. Please also remember that the countryside is also a working environment and everyone should understand the risks and safety concerns regarding farm workers, farm machinery, and farm animals.

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14. Lobbyists

Everyone attending Holistic Hounds services or events should be observant at all times and be aware of the risk of malevolent action from lobbyists. Any unusual or suspicious circumstances should be reported immediately to the lead trainer or therapist who can then ensure that proper action is taken and, if necessary, contact the appropriate authorities. At all times everyone must remain calm, polite, and non confrontational, and also focus on the safety of all concerned.

Please note that by attending a booking you are deemed to have read, understood, and will abide by the safeguarding procedures set out in this Policy statement. All participants have a responsibility to make themselves aware of the contents and abide by the guidelines.

A copy of this Health and Safety Policy Statement is kept visible on our website for access at any time.

This procedure has been updated & authorised by:

Name:	Amber Calleran
Position:	Director of Therapies and Operations
Date:	15th October 2021
Signature:	A.Calleran