



European Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology

ESVCE CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Preamble

The existence and improvement of veterinary clinical ethology depends upon recognition that the profession of behaviourists is based on respect for the dignity of the animals in our care, the people we serve and other Members of the profession. In all their work Members shall not bring into disrepute the discipline and the profession of behaviourists. They shall value respect for human and non-human animals, and shall seek to establish the highest ethical standards in their work and to deal with each other accordingly. Acceptance of the ESVCE code of ethics is implicit for ESVCE membership.

Code of ethics and conduct, with which Members are required to comply.

Members

- must act at all times in accordance with national law and also national stipulations, and strive for the highest standards in all areas, especially with regard to animal welfare.
- must familiarize themselves and comply with all relevant legislation, and the codes of practice of the appropriate professional bodies.
- have a responsibility to their patients, clients and to the general public. Welfare of patient and client (including avoiding danger for third parties) are to be considered primarily. Training techniques and advice should not knowingly or deliberately cause avoidable psychological, physical distress or damage to any of the above.
- should not act in any way which may be detrimental to the relationship with other professions. When collaborating with people who are not ESVCE Members, they should check that the assistant/collaborator (e.g. dog trainer) also conform to the code of practice.
- shall maintain and develop their professional competence.

Members shall:

- refrain from laying claim, directly or indirectly, to qualifications, competencies or affiliations they do not possess
- recognize the boundaries of their own competence and do not execute activities they have no education or specialization for. Rather in such cases they will obtain services from others who are appropriately qualified to provide them.
- Promote the interests of animal welfare to colleagues and to society at large and, where necessary, promote public education programs and cultural activities.
- Co-operate with colleagues and other professionals for the sake of animal welfare.
- Co-operate with governments and other appropriate bodies to improve standards of animal welfare and ensure the welfare of all animals in their care.
- Encourage research and dissemination of results in appropriate publications and forums.
- Deal fairly with each other in the dissemination of professional information and advice.
- Work progressively towards achieving all professional guidelines established by ESVCE.
- Shall not use the name and/or membership of the ESVCE for financial and/or commercial gain, unless directly allowed to do so by Board/Assembly.

ESVCE Members shall maintain a professional relationship with their clients and respect their privacy. Information acquired is confidential. Photography, video or tape recordings of the clients or patients are made only with the consent of the client. Where case studies are used in teaching and furthering the knowledge of veterinary clinical ethology, the anonymity of the client must be preserved and permission should be obtained from the client.

Becoming a member of ESVCE is an agreement to the standards, codes of practice, education and training philosophy of ESVE. Not abiding by this code of conduct and ethics will lead to termination of membership.