



Safeguarding Adults and Children Policy

Company Name:	Chimney Farm International Dog Rescue	Charity Number:	1177512
Policy Title:	Safeguarding Adults and Children		
Date:	30/12/2019	Status:	Released V1.2

Safeguarding Adults and Children Policy

Overview

The purpose of this policy is to protect adults and children from any harm that may be caused by their coming into contact with Chimney Farm International Dog Rescue, hereinafter referred to as Chimney Farm.

This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff or personnel associated with Chimney Farm
- The design and implementation of programmes and activities.

The policy lays out the commitments made by and informs volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of Chimney Farm and associated personnel of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Chimney Farm believes that everyone it comes into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Chimney Farm will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by or towards volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of the charity and/or associated personnel.

Chimney Farm commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

Responsibilities.

Prevention

Chimney Farm will:

- Ensure all volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of the charity have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with. This includes the way in which information about individuals in its programmes is gathered and communicated
- Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when managing and deploying volunteers and associated personnel
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and reporting as appropriate to relevant professionals.

Volunteer responsibilities

Child safeguarding

Chimney Farm volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of the charity and associated personnel must not:

- Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18, report if they are suspicious of any persons engaging in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18.
- Sexually abuse or exploit children
- Subject a child to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking
- Subject children to harm/activities that may result in their harm
- Deviate from adoption and fostering policies in regard to rehoming animals in households with resident children
- Allow rehoming where children are present without due risk assessments being carried out.

Adult safeguarding

Chimney Farm volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of it and associated personnel must not:

- Sexually abuse or exploit at-risk adults
- Subject an at-risk adult to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect.

They must:

- Ensure support is provided to all persons who foster or adopt animals, and that appropriate aftercare is offered.

- Ensure all volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of the charity have the appropriate support, access to procedures, guidance and supervision to carry out tasks safely and free from harm or abuse.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Chimney Farm volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of it and associated personnel must not:

- Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics

Additionally, volunteers undertaking tasks for/on behalf of the charity and associated personnel are obliged to:

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy
- Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by or towards a volunteer or associated personnel to the appropriate senior member, task contact/supervisor or Trustee.

Reporting

Chimney Farm will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to volunteers and the communities it works with.

Any persons reporting concerns or complaints through formal channels will be protected by confidentiality.

Chimney Farm will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

How to report a safeguarding concern

Anyone who has a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to a task contact/supervisor or a Trustee. If the person does not feel comfortable reporting to one of these individuals or if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern, they may report to any other appropriate member. For example, this could be a senior charity member or a Trustee.

Response

Chimney Farm will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to associated policy and legal and statutory obligations.

Chimney Farm will apply appropriate disciplinary measures to persons found in breach of policy.

Chimney Farm will offer support to survivors of harm caused by volunteers or associated personnel, regardless of whether a formal internal response is carried out (such as an internal investigation). Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need to know basis only and should always be kept secure.

Change Record

Date of Change:	Changed By:	Comments:
14/10/2019	CS	Major edits
30/12/2012	CS	Minor edits following Trustee feedback.