

# Health & Safety Policy

Rooted Dog Training

Last updated: 01/01/26



## 1. Policy Statement

Rooted Dog Training is committed to ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of clients, members of the public, contractors, and all dogs involved in training activities. We recognise our legal duties under the **Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974** and associated UK health and safety legislation and aim to create a safe environment for all training services delivered.

This policy applies to all activities carried out by Rooted Dog Training, including 1:1 training sessions, day training services (not conducted in the trainer's home), training walks, and group classes delivered in Surrey and surrounding areas.

## 2. Responsibilities

### Business Owner / Trainer

Rooted Dog Training (the business owner and sole trainer) is responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with relevant health and safety legislation
- Carrying out and reviewing risk assessments for all services
- Maintaining appropriate insurance cover
- Ensuring safe handling and management of dogs at all times
- Providing clients with clear safety instructions and expectations
- Taking reasonable steps to prevent accidents, injuries, or incidents

### Clients

Clients are responsible for:

- Providing accurate information about their dog's behaviour, health, and history
- Ensuring their dog is fit, healthy, and suitably vaccinated where required
- Following all safety instructions provided by Rooted Dog Training
- Using suitable equipment as advised by the trainer

### **3. Risk Assessment**

Risk assessments are undertaken for all activities and environments in which training is delivered. These are reviewed regularly and whenever there is a significant change to services, locations, or circumstances.

Key risks considered include:

- Dog bites, scratches, or aggressive behaviour
- Slips, trips, and falls during outdoor activities
- Dog-to-dog interactions
- Use of leads, long lines, and training equipment
- Environmental hazards (roads, livestock, water, weather conditions)

Appropriate control measures are implemented to reduce risks to an acceptable level.

### **4. Dog Handling & Behaviour Management**

- Dogs are assessed prior to training to identify behavioural or safety risks
- Reactive or aggressive dogs are managed using appropriate safety measures (e.g. distance, muzzles where necessary and agreed with the owner)
- Dogs remain under control at all times using suitable equipment
- Group classes are structured to minimise stress and risk to dogs and handlers

- Rooted Dog Training reserves the right to refuse or modify services if a dog poses an unacceptable safety risk

## **5. Specific Service Safety Measures**

### **1:1 Training Sessions**

- Conducted in agreed safe locations
- One dog per session unless otherwise agreed
- Training plans tailored to the dog's behaviour and environment

### **Day Training (Off-Site)**

- Dogs are supervised at all times
- Safe transport arrangements are used where applicable
- Dogs are not trained or housed in the trainer's home
- Rest, water, and welfare breaks are provided

### **Training Walks**

- Routes are risk assessed in advance
- Dogs are walked using appropriate leads or long lines
- Consideration is given to public safety, livestock, and traffic

### **Group Classes**

- Maximum class sizes are controlled
- Dogs are spaced appropriately
- Owners are instructed on safe handling and positioning
- Reactive dogs are accommodated only where safe and appropriate

## Owner Responsibility in Group Classes

For all group classes delivered by Rooted Dog Training, **dog owners remain fully responsible for the behaviour and control of their dog at all times.**

- Dogs must be kept under effective control throughout the session using suitable equipment as advised by Rooted Dog Training
- Owners are responsible for managing their dog's behaviour, including preventing lunging, snapping, excessive barking, or unwanted interactions with other dogs or people
- Owners must maintain appropriate distance from other dogs as instructed by the trainer
- Any instructions given by Rooted Dog Training regarding positioning, equipment, spacing, or management must be followed immediately

Rooted Dog Training provides professional guidance, instruction, and management of the class environment; however, **ultimate responsibility for a dog's actions and handling remains with the owner or handler.**

Rooted Dog Training reserves the right to:

- Ask an owner to remove their dog from a session if safety is compromised
- Modify a dog's participation to maintain the safety and welfare of all attendees
- Refuse continued participation in group classes where a dog cannot be safely managed by its owner

## 6. Equipment Safety

- All training equipment is checked regularly for wear or damage
- Clients are advised on correct fitting and use of equipment

## 7. Health, Hygiene & Welfare

- Dogs showing signs of illness, injury, or distress may be excluded from training
- Hand hygiene is encouraged, particularly after handling dogs
- Waste is disposed of responsibly in accordance with local regulations
- Weather conditions are monitored to prevent heat stress or cold exposure

## 8. Accident & Incident Reporting

- Any accidents, injuries, or near-miss incidents are recorded
- Serious incidents are reported to relevant authorities where legally required
- First aid provisions are available during training activities

## 9. Insurance

Rooted Dog Training holds appropriate **public liability and professional indemnity insurance** to cover all services provided.

## 10. Policy Review

This Health & Safety Policy is reviewed annually or sooner if:

- There are changes to legislation
- Services or activities change
- A significant incident occurs