
Member Code of Ethics

For all Members of the BC SPCA



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Approved by the Board of Directors on September 23, 2023

I. PURPOSE

This Member Code of Ethics is established pursuant to Section 2 of the Bylaws of The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (“BC SPCA” or “Society”). The purpose of the Member Code of Ethics is to provide a set of guidelines for upholding ethical practices and behaviours and ensuring the highest level of integrity in relationships among Members, and between Members and the employees and volunteers of the Society.

II. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Consistent with the Bylaws of the BC SPCA, acceptance and adherence to the Member Code of Ethics is a requirement for continued membership in the BC SPCA.

III. TENETS**A. Individual Conduct**

Interactions by Members must reflect the Society’s high standards for ethical behaviour including fairness, openness, honesty, integrity, equality, and dignity and are respectful of the opinions of others. While respecting that there are many differing viewpoints within the animal welfare spectrum, the conduct and language of Members when engaged in matters related to the Society must be in keeping with the BC SPCA Respectful Workplace Policy and free from any discrimination or harassment prohibited by the [Human Rights Code](#).

B. Member Responsibilities

Members are encouraged to play a role in the governance of the Society, including through active participation in their respective Regional Council and attendance of general meetings of the Society. Members are also expected to be positive and active ambassadors for the Society in the community.

C. Relations Among Members

Members must strive to engage in an open, respectful, and collaborative manner with the Board of Directors; members of Board committees or task forces; the respective Regional Councils; and other Members. They are expected to seek clarity of intention and mutual understanding by engaging in direct, respectful communication, with sensitivity to and tolerance of differing perspectives, ideas, and opinions.

D. Relations with Employees and Volunteers

Members must treat employees and volunteers of the Society professionally and respectfully, recognizing the right of employees and volunteers to a workplace free from harassment and discrimination.

E. Communications

Only the Board Chair or designate may speak on behalf of the Board, and only the Board Chair, CEO or designate may speak on behalf of the Society. A Member shall not speak or make representations on behalf of the Board, Regional Council or Society.

IV. BREACH OF CODE OF ETHICS

Integrity, honesty, and trust are essential elements of the Society's success. A Member who breaches this Member Code of Ethics is subject to sanction, which may include, but is not limited to, cancellation of their membership in the BC SPCA.

Any Member who knows or suspects that a breach of this Member Code of Ethics has occurred has a responsibility to report it to the Board Chair at boardchair@spca.bc.ca or in the event that the suspected breach involves the Board Chair, then to the Vice Chair at board@spca.bc.ca. An investigation of an alleged breach of the Member Code of Ethics will take place in accordance with the Policy on Process for Investigation of Code of Conduct Complaints.

Document Control

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