



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

GSDCA Communication Code of Conduct

Scope

This Communication Code of Conduct (Code of Conduct) applies to all German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) officers, member clubs and their members (Members).

Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to: outline to Members the expectations and requirements of the GSDCA for all forms of communication between Members and, in relation to GSDCA matters, between Members and anyone else; and ensure that Members understand the expectations and requirements of the GSDCA with respect to communications between Members and, in relation to GSDCA matters, between Members and anyone else;

Background

When communicating, we should treat each other with respect and adhere to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism.

In this Code of Conduct, the word 'communication' is intended to cover all forms of communication whether it be face to face, verbal, in print, using telecommunications technology, electronic media or other technology or media currently in existence or developed from time to time.

Examples of electronic media include short message or messaging service, social media, email, the internet, social networks, podcasts, photographs or pictures, video, rating and social bookmarking.

Whilst the content of all forms of communication needs to be carefully considered, the dynamic and immediate nature of electronic communications can make that task more difficult. Despite this, the GSDCA requires its Members to uphold the highest ethical standards demonstrating respect, honesty and integrity when communicating with one another and, in relation to GSDCA matters, anyone else.

Expectations

- **Abide** by GSDCA Guiding Principles & Code of Ethics;
- **Be reasonable, polite, courteous, considerate and respectful** – listen to others and do not be rude, malicious, offensive, misleading or unfair in your communication with anyone including Members or members of other ANKC affiliated bodies;
- **Be accurate** – check your facts and ensure you can substantiate what you communicate; and
- **Act** in manner that is consistent with community expectations.

Members are expected to communicate in a manner that complies with this Code of Conduct and the law. Relevant law includes laws relating to defamation, copyright, harassment (sexual or otherwise), discrimination (racial, religious or otherwise), intimidation and bullying.

Breach of the Communication Code of Conduct

The GSDCA takes compliance with this Code of Conduct seriously. Any breach or suspected breach of this Code of Conduct should be reported to GSDCA for investigation.

A breach of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary action could be, for example, the issuing of a formal warning or temporary or permanent suspension from the GSDCA.

The GSDCA will not accept, tolerate, condone or support any communication it considers:

- could be damaging to children. This will be referred to the Police; or
- could amount to any form of abuse, discrimination, intimidation and/or bullying. This may be referred for legal advice or to the Police.

Further information

Any Member who requires further information regarding this Code of Conduct may contact the President or Secretary of the GSDCA, or the President or Secretary of the club of which they are a member.