



HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

General Statement of Intent

Canine Concern believes that excellence in the management of Health & Safety is an essential element within its overall service and objectives.

Volunteers and their dogs continue to be the most important asset of Canine Concern, and our commitment to provide help to sick, lonely and elderly people by providing visiting therapy dogs to homes and hospitals, and therefore we are totally committed to ensure their health, safety and welfare at all times.

To ensure our Volunteers and their dogs are protected during visits to services we request the following:

- On the first visit to a service a health and safety check will be completed which will then be reviewed annually to ensure that service we visit remain safe for our volunteers and their dogs.
- For those services that are regulated by the CQC that they have valid public liability insurance and this is visible to our volunteers on their visits.
- That environments are safe and free from harm or danger
- That our volunteers are made fully aware of any fire drills that may be being held during their visit and the correct protocol for evacuation in the event that it is not a drill
- Prior to any visits or at the commencement of the visit that the Volunteer is made aware of any incidents within the home which could have an impact on their safety to enable them to make the decision as to whether to continue the visit or to reschedule the visit for a more suitable time.
- Fresh water is available for the dogs especially during the summer months and as much as possible rooms are ventilated to ensure that they don't become too hot and have an impact on the dogs or volunteer
- Volunteers are not left un-supported at any time during their visit, and staff are available to provide support to the volunteer during their visit.
- All services that are regulated by the CQC have a clear health and safety policy which is accessible to the volunteer if requested

Canine Concern from a legal perspective is committed to ensuring that it complies with all health and safety legislation and will work with services to ensure that this is met. Canine Concern is committed to ongoing monitoring and review process, so that continual improvement in the management of health and safety can be reviewed.

As part of our ongoing commitment, our general intentions are:

- Ensure that within services we visit that they provide adequate control of the health and safety risks arising from their work activities
- That services we visit maintain a safe environment
- That services we visit ensure that substances are handled correctly and do not pose a risk to our volunteers or their dogs
- That there is information available that provides clear instruction and guidance around health and safety
- Services maintain a safe and healthy working conditions
- Review and revise this policy at regular intervals and whenever required