



MYNYDD

SLEDDOG ADVENTURES

Dog Welfare Policy

Introduction

Mynydd Sleddog Adventures is committed to upholding the highest standards of dog welfare in accordance with the **Animal Welfare Act 2006** and the **DEFRA (Department for Fisheries and Rural Affairs)** Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs.

In addition, **SHCGB** (*Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain* (affiliated to the UK Kennel Club)); outline strict requirements for its members on working, health and breeding. **IFSS** (*International Federation for Sleddog Sports*), **WSA** (*World Sleddog Association*) and **ISDVMA** (*International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association*) all provide guidance on the appropriate management and care of working sleddogs and actively promote wellbeing, welfare and safety.

This policy outlines our commitment to ensuring the well-being, health, and happiness of all dogs in our care, whether they are our own dogs or those of our activity participants.

Responsibilities

All members of Mynydd Sleddog Adventures Ltd, including employees, volunteers, and visitors, are responsible for adhering to this policy and the relevant legislation.

Our responsibilities include:

- Ensuring our dogs have a suitable environment, including shelter and clean living conditions, both at home and in transport.
- Providing our dogs with a balanced diet, fresh water, and suitable food.
- Offering appropriate health and veterinary care to maintain our dog's fitness and wellbeing.
- Ensuring our dogs are handled and trained in a way that does not cause harm, distress, or suffering.
- Preventing our dogs from being exposed to any unnecessary suffering or injury.
- Taking necessary steps to protect our dogs from pain, injury, suffering, or disease.
- Ensuring our dogs are provided with the opportunity to exhibit normal behaviours.

- Protecting dogs from fear and distress, and providing them with appropriate mental stimulation and socialisation.
- Ensuring our dogs receive appropriate exercise as well as rest.

Standards of Care

We are committed to upholding the following standards of care for all dogs in our responsibility:

Shelter and Accommodation

- Dogs must have access to clean, dry, and comfortable shelter and bedding.
- Adequate space will be provided for our dogs to move around freely, sleep comfortably and exercise.

Diet and Nutrition

- Dogs will be fed an appropriate and balanced diet.
- Fresh, clean water must always be available.

Healthcare

- Regular veterinary check-ups and necessary supplementary medication or practices will be provided where required (chiropractor, canine myopathy or hydrotherapy).
- All dogs will be protected against parasites and disease as required.
- All dogs used for breeding will be appropriately health tested, temperament assessed and fit for purpose.

Handling and Training

- Dogs will be trained using positive methods only.
- Mynydd Sleddog Adventures does not advocate or use aversive and punishment based training methods.
- Physical punishment, verbal scolding or any form of abuse will not be tolerated.

Preventing Suffering

- Dogs will be protected from harsh weather conditions appropriate for the breed of dog.
- Steps will be taken to prevent accidents and injuries.

Mental Stimulation and Socialisation

- Abundant opportunities for play, exercise and socialise will be provided from puppyhood to retirement.

Preventing Fear and Distress

- Dogs will be protected from situations that could cause them fear or distress.

Monitoring and Reporting

- We will continuously monitor the welfare of our dogs and take immediate action in case of concern.

Education and Training

- We will ensure that all staff and volunteers are educated and trained appropriately, following the guidance detailed in section 1 of this document.
- All staff and volunteers will actively promote the values and ethics of Mynydd Sleddog Adventures, excellent dog welfare and management.

Non-Discrimination

- We will not discriminate against any dog based on breed, size, age, or any other characteristic. All dogs deserve equal care and attention.

Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required by changes in legislation or best practices in dog welfare.

Sleddog Retirement

Mynydd Sleddog Adventures is committed to the lifelong well-being of our canine companions. We believe in providing a loving and nurturing environment for our dogs throughout their lives.

We do not destroy or rehome our dogs once they retire. Instead, we honour and respect their dedicated service by enabling them to enjoy a well-deserved retirement when they let us know they are ready.

Our commitment to our dogs extends beyond the trails, ensuring that each retired sleddog remains a cherished member of our extended family, surrounded by the care and attention they deserve.

Sleddog Activities

When participating in sled dog activities for the purposes of our business, training at home or in competition, we will adhere to the legislation, rules and code of ethics set by the bodies, detailed in Section 1, to ensure the safety and welfare of the dogs involved.

This includes:

- Terminating any activity immediately, if there are concerns for a dog's welfare and/or if it is considered that participants are not following the instructions given.
- Mynydd Sleddog Adventures booking calendar is scheduled in accordance with seasonal temperature and humidity changes. Throughout the season we monitor the weather conditions, temperatures and humidity using the MET office, RWx Pro weather information services and a Kestrel Weather Meter to ensure the welfare of our dogs.

- As the seasons change and the temperature warms, activities will be postponed until temperatures drop.
- Our summer activities will be scheduled during the cooler parts of the day (early morning and evening).
- We will not work our dogs if amber or red weather warnings have been issued for; extreme high winds, storm warnings or icy conditions which could jeopardise visitor safety or our dogs welfare.
- Appropriate training will be provided for our dogs to prevent physical and psychological harm.
- Frequent breaks and rest periods will be provided, during commercial activities and competitions.
- Prohibiting the use of any harmful or inhumane training methods.
- Our commercial passenger rides will be restricted to a maximum participant weight of 14 stone/88 kg.

Breeding and Puppies

We are committed to responsible breeding practices and occasionally allow one of our dogs to produce a litter puppies. In accordance with responsible breeding practices, we are committed to the following:

- Rigorous health testing protocols, to ensure the overall health and vitality of our dogs.
- Comprehensive screening for hereditary diseases to minimise the risk of genetic conditions.
- Where screening is not available, we will seek Veterinary or Specialist advice to ensure that we make an informed decision.
- Assessment of canine temperament, placing emphasis on selecting dogs with positive and adaptable dispositions.
- Only using dogs that meet the breed standard*, are healthy, fit for purpose with a sound temperament and work ethic.
- Any bitches used for breeding will be assessed by our Vet to ensure she is fit, healthy and able to produce a healthy litter of puppies.
- We will never breed a litter of puppies without first having a waiting list of suitable homes.
- Our puppies will never be advertised for sale on any selling or pet sales sites.
- We rigorously evaluate potential homes for their understanding of the breed and commitment to sleddogs and their unique needs.
- Our puppies will be thorough socialised, exposed to new sounds and situations to ensure they are able to flourish in their new home.
- Any puppies that we allow to go to new homes will be sold with a Contract of Sale which includes the requirement to return if the home can no longer look after the puppy of adult dog. A Puppy Information Pack will also be provided together with health test documents, pedigree, insurance and the recommended vaccinations and parasite treatment.

*pure breeds only

Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain

SHCGB is affiliated to the UK Kennel Club. As members of SHCGB, we are bound by SHCGB Code of Ethics and Constitution. [SHCGB Constitution & Code of Ethics](#)