Safeguarding Policy

Business Name: Chewing with River
Last Updated: 10 November 2026

1. Introduction

Chewing with River is committed to promoting the welfare and safeguarding of all individuals and animals it interacts with, including clients, their families, and their dogs. This policy outlines the responsibilities of the company in ensuring a safe environment, including the limits of confidentiality and the circumstances under which breaches of confidentiality may occur in accordance with UK law.

2. Scope of the Policy

This safeguarding policy applies to all interactions with clients, including one-to-one consultations, online engagements, and any other service provided by Chewing with River. It covers the welfare of:

- Clients and their families (including children and vulnerable adults)
- Dogs under the care of clients
- Staff and associates working with Chewing with River

3. Breaching Confidentiality

Chewing with River respects client confidentiality and takes all reasonable steps to protect personal information. However, confidentiality may be breached under the following circumstances:

- Legal Obligation: If required by law, such as compliance with a court order.
- Risk of Harm to a Person: If there is reason to believe that a client, a child, or a vulnerable adult is at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect, as per the Children Act 1989, the Care Act 2014, and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- Animal Welfare Concerns: If there is evidence of neglect or abuse of an animal that breaches the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
- Public Safety: If a client makes threats of violence or engages in illegal activity that could endanger others.

- Emergency Situations: Where immediate action is needed to prevent harm to a person or animal.

In such cases, Chewing with River will share relevant information only with appropriate authorities and will inform the client where possible, unless doing so would increase risk.

4. Reporting to Emergency and Social Services

Where safeguarding concerns arise, Chewing with River will take the following steps:

- For concerns involving children or vulnerable adults: Reports will be made to the relevant local authority social services department or the police, in line with the Children Act 1989 and the Care Act 2014.
- For concerns involving animal welfare: Reports will be made to the RSPCA or local animal welfare officers as per the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
- For immediate danger or criminal activity: Emergency services (999) will be contacted.
- For non-emergency safeguarding concerns: Reports will be made to relevant agencies such as the NSPCC, local safeguarding boards, or adult social services.

All safeguarding concerns will be documented appropriately, ensuring compliance with data protection laws such as the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

5. Responsibilities and Training

Chewing with River is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all team members understand safeguarding procedures.
- Keeping up to date with UK safeguarding laws and best practices.
- Engaging in ongoing training where necessary to ensure compliance with legal and ethical obligations.

6. Review of This Policy

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or as required by changes in UK law. Amendments will be made to reflect best practices and legal obligations.

For further information or to report a safeguarding concern, please contact Chewing with River via the designated communication channels.

Next Review: 10 November 2027