



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

The Retired Greyhound Trust (RGT) recognises the valuable contribution that young volunteers can make and the ideas, enthusiasm and commitment they bring to the role. The welfare of children and young people is paramount and those under 18 years of age are defined as “children” for the purposes of child protection legislation and classified as “vulnerable” in law. Children have equal rights of protection from abuse, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

Safeguarding Children Policy

As a charity we have a duty of care when children are volunteering with RGT. The Trust has in place the following Safeguarding Children Policy, that has been approved and endorsed by the Board of Trustees and will be reviewed annually, applies to all trustees, staff, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of the charity.

The policy:

- ✓ Requires each child who wishes to volunteer for the RGT to first read and sign a Volunteer Policy and Agreement and for the Parent or Guardian of the child to sign the document where indicated, in so doing giving consent for the child named to carry out volunteer duties for the RGT.
- ✓ Requires children under 16 to be accompanied and under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian at all times when volunteering for RGT.
- ✓ Permits children over 16 but under 18 years of age to volunteer at a public event (any event open for the general public, e.g. a show, fundraising event or kennel open morning) without being accompanied or supervised.
- ✓ Requires children over 16 but under 18 years of age to be supervised when volunteering at a non-public event (e.g. carrying out day-to-day duties at kennels). This supervision must be by either a parent or guardian or by an RGT adult volunteer.
- ✓ Requires the RGT and all its staff and volunteers to treat all children and young people with respect, to use appropriate language and demonstrate appropriate behaviour in their presence and to celebrate their achievements.
- ✓ Requires the RGT to respond to concerns and allegations appropriately.

CRB checks

A Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check searches a person’s details against criminal records and other sources, including the Police National Computer. The CRB check will either confirm that a person does not have a criminal record, or it will list any relevant convictions, cautions, reprimands, warnings and, if applicable, whether a person has been barred from working with vulnerable groups. The police can also include non-conviction information, for example, fixed penalties, that may be relevant. The results of the check will be shared with both the person being checked, and the RGT Chief Executive.

There is no legal obligation for all RGT volunteers to undergo a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check.

However, when an adult volunteer is regularly (i.e. more than once a week) supervising a child volunteer (of whom they are not the child's parent or guardian) at a private event then the adult volunteer should first be subject to an enhanced CRB check. In such circumstances please notify the RGT head office in the first instance that will request the check on your behalf and countersign your request form. A copy of the CRB certificate will be sent to the applicant and one to the Chief Executive at RGT.

Dealing with concerns

When there are concerns about the welfare of any child, all adults in the charity are expected to share those concerns with the Chief Executive of RGT who is the Lead Person for Safeguarding.

The Lead Person for Safeguarding is responsible for:

- Monitoring and recording concerns.
- Making referrals to children's social care services without delay.
- Liaison with other agencies.

Concerns about the behaviour of adult/s in the organisation must be referred without delay to the Lead Person for Safeguarding who will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at Children's Social Care Services, or the Police in an emergency.

In the event that the concerns are about the Lead Person or if the Lead Person is unavailable, it is important to refer to the Deputy Lead Person for Safeguarding, who is the Welfare and Operations Manager or to the Chairman of the RGT Trustees. Should this not be appropriate, any member of the charity may personally refer the concerns directly to the LADO.

Insurance

All registered volunteers, regardless of age, are covered by the Trust's public and products liability insurance. This indemnifies volunteers against legal liability to pay damages arising out of accidental injury to any person and/or accidental damage to property.

More information

If you have any questions or would further information about this policy, please contact the Chief Executive of the Retired Greyhound Trust on 020 8335 3016.