



Code of Ethics

As a member of the Delta Institute, I will embrace, endorse, and promote the philosophy of the Delta Therapy Dogs, commit to upholding the highest ethical standards, and abide by Delta Institute's Best Practice Guidelines.

I will use exclusively evidence-based, least-harm methods drawn from validated research in the fields of canine behaviour, learning theory, and welfare.

I unreservedly reject the use of aversive training methods including raised voices, intimidation, leash corrections, strangling, alpha rolls, physical manipulation, spray bottles, startling noises & movements, hitting or in any other way creating pain, fear, or increased stress in dogs.

I will only use and advocate methods that:

- do not cause harm or unnecessary stress to the dog, the owner, or others;
- promote the human-animal bond;
- provide immediate management to avoid unwanted behaviours and all potentially dangerous behaviours;
- use only positive reinforcement techniques to teach desirable behaviours and redirect existing ones; and
- adhere to current best practice guidelines and standards.

I will strive to incorporate all aspects of responsible dog ownership into my training programs and include materials that educate clients about their dog's innate needs and behaviours.

I will not provide clients with a "diagnosis", "prognosis", or "treatment plan" and will not provide guarantees about specific training outcomes such as assurance that problems will be resolved.

I will maintain the highest professional standard of business practice including:

- not breaching any applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations at any time;
- maintaining appropriate detailed records for all my work and of clients and their dogs for 7 years;
- respecting client privacy and confidentiality;
- being prepared, punctual, presentable, and professional in all my work;
- not making false or misleading statements in relation to methodology in dog training and qualifications;
- refraining from criticising other professionals or associations in public, social media or to our own clients; and
- ensuring I hold a current First Aid certificate.

I will not represent myself as an official Delta Therapy Dogs or Delta Institute spokesperson without prior written approval from the Delta Institute.