



Safeguarding Policy

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the approach that we as an organisation take to ensure that anyone using our services is safe. Safeguarding means putting processes in place to ensure that children or vulnerable adults are not abused in any way, including verbally or physically.

The Field Spaniel Society needs to ensure that the way we engage with children and vulnerable adults keeps them safe and does not place them at risk of harm. It is also the responsibility of the Society to ensure that any anybody attending a Society lead event who come into contact with children and vulnerable adults who use our services are protected and understand the procedures to follow if there are any concerns. As a Royal Kennel Club registered club we operate under their regulations and guidance and our Safeguarding and Child protection policy has been created using their wider policies and best practice. As a solely volunteer organisation we will sometimes need to refer any complex issues to them as our governing body. The full documents can be found at:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/policies/safeguarding-policy/>

We will:

- design and undertake all activities in a way that protects children and vulnerable adults from any risk of harm when using our services
- follow up reports on safeguarding concerns promptly
- share concerns with relevant authorities who need to know, and involve children, vulnerable adults, parents, families, and guardians/carers as appropriate

We aim for openness and encourage any member to speak out about any safeguarding concerns they may have. We will do our best to deal with any issues, confidentially, seeking external advice if necessary. However claims should never be made maliciously, and care will be taken to ensure that is not the case before any action is taken by the Society.

The law recognises that in some circumstances it may be appropriate for you to report your concerns to an external body. If you are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm, please contact your local social care team.