

## Safeguarding Policy for Dave and Ewe Holistic Animal Therapy Provision

At Dave and Ewe, we are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all our clients, especially children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is at the heart of our holistic animal therapy provision, ensuring the well-being of everyone who engages with our services.

### 1. Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and protecting children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm. It applies to all staff, volunteers, visitors, and anyone working on behalf of Dave and Ewe.

### 2. Our Commitment

We believe that all individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have a right to protection from harm, abuse, or exploitation. We are committed to providing a safe space where individuals can thrive through therapeutic engagement with animals, promoting well-being and positive outcomes.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

- All Staff and Volunteers: Every member of our team is responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our clients. All staff and volunteers will receive safeguarding training and understand the procedures for reporting concerns.
- Safeguarding Lead: Our dedicated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring our policies are up to date, that staff are trained, and that any safeguarding concerns are handled appropriately. Contact details for the Safeguarding Lead will be displayed prominently within the facility.
- Visitors: All visitors are required to adhere to our safeguarding guidelines and report any concerns they may have to the Safeguarding Lead.

### 4. Recognising Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect. At Dave and Ewe, we ensure that staff and volunteers are trained to recognize the signs of abuse and understand their duty to report concerns.

Signs of abuse may include:

- Unexplained injuries or changes in behavior
- Emotional withdrawal or distress
- Sudden changes in appearance or hygiene
- Unexplained fear of adults or peers

### 5. Reporting Concerns

If anyone working with Dave and Ewe suspects that a child, young person, or vulnerable adult is being abused or neglected, they must report their concern immediately to the Safeguarding Lead. If the Safeguarding Lead is unavailable, concerns should be reported to another staff member.

In the case of an emergency or if a client is in immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted by dialing 999.

### 6. Confidentiality

All safeguarding concerns will be handled with the utmost confidentiality. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis to protect the welfare of the individual concerned. We follow strict data protection protocols to ensure personal information is managed securely.

### 7. Safe Recruitment and Training

We are committed to ensuring that all staff and volunteers working with Dave and Ewe are suitable to work with children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This includes:

- Undertaking enhanced DBS checks for all employees and volunteers.
- Providing mandatory safeguarding training for all staff, including regular refreshers.
- Maintaining a code of conduct that ensures professionalism and safety in all interactions with clients.

#### 8. Animal Welfare and Client Safety

At Dave and Ewe, we also ensure the well-being of our therapy animals. This includes regular health checks and ensuring that interactions between animals and clients are safe, supervised, and designed to promote a positive therapeutic environment.

#### 9. Partnership with Families and Other Agencies

We believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We work in partnership with families, carers, schools, and local agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of our clients. Where appropriate, we will liaise with external services to provide additional support and protection.

#### 10. Review of the Policy

This safeguarding policy is reviewed annually or sooner if there are any changes in legislation or our provision. We remain committed to evolving our practices to maintain the highest standards of care and safety.

For more information or to raise a concern, please contact our Safeguarding Lead, Dave Buscombe, 07979191034.

We at Dave and Ewe are dedicated to safeguarding the welfare of all who visit us and engage with our holistic animal therapy programs.