## Animal Handling Policy

This policy is designed to assist staff, volunteers, contractors and interns (herein “members”) in understanding the expectations of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the regards to the handling of animals. It is essential that all representatives of the \_\_\_\_ display the same high standard of animal care and handling that’s expected from our clients and other animal care professionals.

All members who are involved with the handling of animals will receive training in Positive Reinforcement Techniques, Animal Handling and Body Postures and Animal Communication.

* Every person must afford each and every animal due care, consideration, respect and compassion.
* Prejudice or biases towards a particular breed on the grounds of personal preferences or beliefs is not acceptable.
* No animal should be caused unnecessary discomfort or undue stress as a consequence of act or omission by a member of the \_\_\_\_ .
* Appropriate equipment and positive training techniques must be used when handling any animal to minimize the level of stress placed upon the animal. Care and time is needed when dealing with frightened and uncooperative animals. Unnecessary use of restraint or dragging of animals in any way, including by the leash, is unacceptable.
* Any person who teases, tortures or terrifies, infuriates or provokes, abuses or otherwise inflicts pain or unreasonable stress upon an animal will be subject to disciplinary action or may have their employment or agreement with the \_\_\_\_ terminated at the discretion of Management. They may also be prosecuted under State Code, City or County ordinance.
* All members must always be accurate in their reporting of all aspects of animal related information. For example: behavioral problems such as biting, resource guarding, inter dog aggression, etc. and health problems must be recorded. Our aim is to determine the most appropriate course of action for each animal in our care. Inaccurate, misleading or withholding information places both animals and people at risk.

Concerns for personal safety gives all members the right to refuse to handle an animal. This includes but is not limited to entering the enclosure, handling, feeding, walking and home visits. In all circumstances that members of the \_\_\_\_ believe themselves at risk they must not proceed and should contact their supervisor as soon as possible for instructions.

I HAVE READ ALL OF THE ABOVE. I UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE CONTENT.

Signature

Print Name