

# **ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **PART II**

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

Alliance of Therapy Dogs is committed to a code of ethics that will guide the performance, conduct and behavior of its board and members. This code will ensure that the professionalism of our organization is reflected in the operation of our volunteer activities and that ATD members will adhere to the Rules and Regulations and this Code of Ethics or will be held accountable for their actions.

1. Members will maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, and impartiality, free from any personal considerations, favoritism, or partisan demands.
2. Members will be courteous and considerate when dealing with the public, realizing that we serve the public.
3. Members will be courteous and professional in all ATD social media interaction.
4. Members will maintain mutual respect and professional cooperation in their relationships with other ATD members.
5. Members will act cordially and professionally toward all other registered therapy dog teams regardless of registry.
6. Members will be firm, fair, and consistent in the performance of their volunteer duties and shall treat others with dignity, respect, and compassion, void of all retribution, harassment, or abuse.
7. Members will conduct themselves in a manner that will not bring discredit or embarrassment to the organization when performing their volunteer duties.
8. Members will report without reservation any witnessed infractions of ATD Rules and Regulations or unethical behavior that could affect either members or the integrity of ATD.
9. Members will not abuse their position, education, or professional title(s).
10. Members will not directly or indirectly solicit from anyone anything of economic value, such as a gift, gratuity, or favor, for their volunteer services.
11. Members will not use the ATD name, logo, or slogan without approval from the president.
12. Members will not discriminate against any person, facility employee, or any member of the public on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin.
13. Members will not sexually harass or condone sexual harassment with or against any person.
14. Members will not misrepresent their therapy dogs as service dogs for the purpose of gaining public access to planes, restaurants, public buildings, stores, etc.
15. Handlers who want to take their therapy dogs into places that normally allow only service dogs MUST explain that their dogs are therapy dogs, not service dogs, AND that they do not have legal access rights like service dogs.
16. Members who choose to engage in behaviors/activities outside of the guidelines without an approved exception must remove the official red-heart shaped ATD tag from the dog's collar and notify the facility supervisor that ATD insurance is not in effect for the duration of that behavior/activity.