

THE POULTRY CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Poultry Club is grateful to a PCGB member, Nicholas Elcombe, who is a barrister specialising in Child Care work and kindly assisted in the drafting of this CPP document.

Policy aims

1. To ensure that the showing of poultry and associated items is at all times safe for all children
2. To ensure that good practice is followed in all matters relating to children by the Poultry Club
3. To ensure that any allegations that this child protection policy has been breached are investigated swiftly by the proper authorities.

Introduction

1. A child is any person under 18 years
2. The showing of poultry is a safe, worthwhile hobby for children. It must remain so
3. All children are entitled to carry out any activity that they might engage in free from physical, emotional and sexual abuse. They are also entitled to be free from any fear of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. On any occasion that a child suffers or fears any form of abuse the welfare of the child or children is harmed
4. The members of the Poultry Club are not qualified to determine if any form of abuse has occurred or not. It must on every occasion be for the proper authorities to investigate and make determinations with regard to any allegation made
5. It is very important that there is no delay in reporting any allegations to the proper authorities
6. The Poultry Club takes seriously its responsibilities in respect of all children engaged in activities carried out under its auspices. If any breed society and/or associated/regional club has any doubt over the proper course to take on any child protection issue they should urgently seek guidance from the Poultry Club (official/council member/ child protection official)
7. The Poultry Club has a number of members who have considerable experience in the judging of children's classes and tuition of children in a safe and appropriate manner. If in doubt always ask how to manage any particular situation.
8. Poultry Club shows includes any event held by the Poultry Club or by any Breed Club or Society, Regional Club held under Poultry Club Rules or in any way having a connection with the Poultry Club

Good Practice

Good practice very often accords with good sense. All aspects of the showing of poultry, eggs and associated craft objects should be carried out in such a manner that no suspicion of any form of abuse, or threat of abuse, arises.

Good practice includes:

- Always carrying out any activities with children in an open environment and manner. There should never be secrets. It should never be necessary to be alone with a child in a judging or teaching situation
- All children are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. That might include asking other children present to desist from chatter or interruption. It clearly means that no person officiating should tolerate any child being abusive to another child
- It is sensible for any physical contact between adult and child to be limited to that necessary for the proper handling of birds and the appropriate encouragement of children.

- It is not wrong for a gentle pat on the back to encourage or by way of congratulation. There is never any reason for any form of intimate contact
- The most appropriate way of encouraging children is often with praise. There is always something good to say about every exhibit. Any criticism is best modulated in terms of encouragement or offering of advice.

Obligations and Responsibilities

1. If there are any concerns about the welfare of a child it is the duty of every adult to ensure that it is reported to an official of the show, or event, organising body without delay
2. The official receiving the report of concern should make a contemporaneous note of what is reported, including the time and date. It should then be reported to the Poultry Club and a copy of the note provided. Any other copy of any note must be kept secure. It is always wrong to embark on any questioning of any victim or child or witnesses. It may be helpful to make a note of contact details of any potential witness
3. It is never right to delay any medical treatment that might be considered appropriate by way of first aid in case of injury
4. Any person against whom any allegation of abuse is made should not be forewarned of the allegation or asked anything about the allegation. That is a matter for the proper authorities in every case
5. All children and any adult are entitled to confidentiality. It is always wrong for either the allegation or the names of those who might be involved to be given to anyone who does not need to know. Those that need to know are a Poultry Club official and the parents of any child involved. It may be necessary for any first aider to know
6. The Poultry Club will take such steps thereafter as it considers necessary on each report made to it as are proper to protect the relevant child, and any child or children in the future. In order to do so it may take advice from any proper authority, these include social services and the police. The Poultry Club may keep such confidential records as are appropriate and commensurate with its duties of child protection
7. It is the duty of every club official and adult to cooperate with any inquiries made by proper authorities or the Poultry Club
8. It is appropriate in all cases of concern about the welfare of any child that media enquiries are dealt with by the Poultry Club

Powers

In accordance with the Policy Aims and in order to ensure the safety of all children the Poultry Club may make such decision as soon as it considers appropriate about the future role that any individual may take in any Poultry Club event or show. These decisions may be made irrespective of whether any report to the Poultry Club arises from a Poultry Club event or otherwise. This includes, but is not limited to, removal from any role within the Poultry Club, limitation on any role within the Poultry Club, temporary removal or restriction on any role within the Poultry Club and the same in connection with any club or breed society that declines to abide by Poultry Club decisions.

In making any decision about any publication about any event the Poultry Club will always consider it appropriate to protect the identity of any victim but will be mindful of its ongoing obligations to ensure that the showing and keeping of poultry remains a safe hobby.