

Therapy Dogs Nationwide

Acceptance or Refusal of Donations

Applicability

This policy applies to all members of our charity, including trustees. Therefore, everyone must follow this policy in accepting or refusing donations.

Compliance

As a registered charity, we comply with all relevant UK laws and regulatory guidelines, including those issued by the Charity Commission, HMRC and the Fundraising Regulator.

In soliciting funds, we will not knowingly mislead or provide false information, nor put undue pressure on a donor, particularly if they may be vulnerable.

Acceptance of Donations

We accept donations on a good faith basis. That is there is a presumption that a donation is acceptable, unless there is evidence to the contrary. We carry out [appropriate risk based due diligence](#) to mitigate this risk to an acceptable degree.

In deciding to accept, or reject, a donation we balance the impact on our beneficiaries of not accepting the funding, against the impact on our charity of accepting a donation that should not have been. That may include risks such as harm to our beneficiaries' interests, reputational damage, loss of public trust and the risk of breaking the law.

Factors we will consider in making a decision will include any physical or mental-health condition, disability or learning difficulties the person may have, whether the person is facing times of stress or anxiety, whether a donation is likely to affect the person's ability to sufficiently care for themselves or leave them in financial hardship, how well the person can speak and understand English, whether the person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the person's age.

We will also take all reasonable steps to avoid asking for regular donations (for example, by direct debit) from anyone aged under 18.

Anonymous Donations

Donations through collection tins and online platforms are often anonymous and any donor may remain anonymous if they choose to. The Charity Commission 'know your' donor principle does not mean charities cannot accept anonymous donations and doing so is perfectly acceptable providing charities look out for suspicious circumstances and put adequate safeguards in place.

Trustees will take reasonable and appropriate steps to know who the charity's donors are and will not accept a donation where the risk to the charity is assessed to be greater than the benefit of having the funds donated. There can be no absolute guide to what may be suspicious, but indicators are where significant sums are being donated, particularly if this is unusual, in cash or from overseas. Any prospective donor who wishes cash to be forwarded in advance or for the charity to pay some of the donation to a third party will always be considered highly suspicious.

The trustees will consider reporting suspicious donations as a Charity Commission Incident report.

Refusal of Donations

We will not accept a donation where there are reasonable grounds to believe:

- The individual or organisation holds views or is involved in activities incompatible with our values as a charity.
- The donation may be an attempted scam, or to launder money or evade tax, or is in some other way illegal.
- There may be private benefit linked to the donation, such as an obligation to purchase goods or services from a specified company.
- Conditions attached to the donation are so inflexible that they undermine our independence.
 - Or are so onerous as to compromise our effectiveness.
 - Or restrict who may benefit to the extent of undermining our public benefit obligation.
- The cost of accepting the donation would exceed its value.

We welcome donations from commercial organisations, but will not accept donations where, in the view of the trustees, the purpose might reasonably be considered to be for commercial gain. That is, by enabling the company to use its connection to the charity to market itself to its customers and the public as ethical and an active supporter of our work, when it is not. For example, by promoting its support for our work when its own working practices, products or services do not reflect our values and activities.

Version Control - Approval and Review

Version No	Approved By	Approval Date	Main Changes	Review Period
1.0	Board	Aug 23	Initial draft approved	Annually

Regulatory Guidance

- Charity Commission –
 - [Know your donor key questions.](#)
 - [Know you donor – checklist.](#)

- [Advice on suspect donations.](#)
- [Donations from outside the UK.](#)
- [End use of funds.](#)
- [Designated persons list.](#)
- [Tainted donations.](#)
- Fundraising Regulator
 - – [behaviour when fundraising.](#)