



# Natalie Light

## Training & Behaviour

### Environmental and Ethics Statement for Natdogs Ltd

Natdogs Ltd is a Carbon & Biodiversity Positive Companion Animal Behaviour and Training Business. The business operates throughout the UK providing consultancy, service, event and supplying products, with a base in South Hampshire. The business has a strong ethical ethos, particularly around Animal Welfare, Ecology and the Environment. The company has committed to responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, continually seeking environmental improvements throughout all activities. This ethos is carried forwards as business activities are predominately delivered by Natalie, an Animal Welfare and Ethics Lecturer, Certificated Clinical Animal Behaviourist and who has a background in nature conservation. In a supporting role the company's other Director is a Chartered Environmentalist.

#### Animal Welfare

Most services are delivered by Natalie who follows professional standards set out by the Animal Behaviour & Training Council, Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors, Association of the Study of Animal Behaviour Accreditation Code of Conduct and the Fellowship of Animal Behaviour Clinicians. Animal Welfare is intrinsic throughout all business activities, training methods and clients are required to refrain from using equipment, methods or behaviour deemed aversive, unethical and inappropriate. Courses and events may also feature additional sub-contracted speakers, and only people who follow the businesses ethics and ethos are invited to participate.

#### Biodiversity Positive

Training activities are predominately carried out in a 3-acre former horse paddock which is now managed for wildlife and conservation, ensuring the business is biodiversity positive. The training venue which formerly had low ecological value, now features a large wildlife pond in area reserved for nature, over 1,300 native trees and hedges planted in association with the Woodland Trust. The majority of the remaining site is managed as a wildflower meadow with grass paths throughout for users to enjoy. All staff and clients are required to appropriately dispose of all animal waste to avoid nutrification of soil creating a grass monoculture. Pesticides are prohibited and any agricultural products used are peat free. Since taking on the venue in April 2015, the natural land management practices have led to a wide variety of native fauna & flora, birds, small & large mammals and invertebrates to be identified. Consultancy activities magnify the businesses ethos across the country, supporting large landowners such as Wildlife Trusts and Local Authorities to reduce the ecological and animal welfare impact of staff, site users and the public.

#### Ethical Sales

As is befitting of an animal welfare business, no animal derived products are used, this includes food and refreshments at events. Business activities include the sale of ethical only training aids and dog food. Training aids are sold with professional support and are cruelty free (so do not include shock collars). Natdogs Ltd is a stockist of Benevo products, which are cruelty free and planet friendly plant-based dog food. The Benevo range includes dog treats which are PETA, Vegan and Vegetarian Society Approved and are packaged in compostable packaging.



#### Health and Wellbeing

Natalie ensures that all activities and events are carried out safely, she is DBS checked and is a Dog and Human First Aider. The Training venue has been designed to allow the safe assessment of dogs via secure gated areas and the whole site is secure to allow users a safe place to walk dogs where this may not be possible in public. Often referred to as "the happy place" by clients, the high level of nature and tranquillity at the training venue ensures that it promotes positive mental health and wider wellbeing.

## Transport

Most journeys made by the business by Natalie since November 2016 have been via an Electric Van, powered by 100% renewable electricity. Longer journeys are predominately made via rail and only where this is not practical flights may be taken, these are specifically offset. Venues hired are selected taking into account accessibility and access to public transport.

## Waste

Natdogs Ltd takes a circular economy approach to reduce resource consumption, following the waste hierarchy and specifically avoiding single use plastic and other waste wherever possible. Much of the training venue equipment is either reclaimed or second-hand. Uniform and fundraising products are purchased via the local zero carbon circular economy company Tee Mill. There is a principle of paperless office activities and should any operational material be deemed waste, it is disposed of appropriately. Non-human animal faeces is one of the main forms of waste from operational activities, and a plan is in place to install an onsite Anaerobic Digestion bin during 2021. It is also intended that compostable toilet facilities may be installed on site for human use. The Directors also regularly carry out litter picking activities in the surrounding area, report any environmental crime such as fly-tipping to the relevant authorities.

## Carbon Positive Business

Overall, low carbon activities, purchased offsets and onsite sequestration via Tree planting ensures that overall Natdog Ltd is carbon positive. Most administrative activities are carried out in the home office, which is situated in a highly efficient Eco Home, featuring 3.75kWp Solar PV Panels, 100% renewable electricity and 100% offset gas heating. A small level of fossil fuels are used on site via a second-hand petrol ride on mower, it is intended that the mower will be replaced by an electric variant once it reaches end of usable life. In addition to the mower, manual and electric power tools are used on site, where necessary these are charged by 100% renewable electricity at the home office.

## Other Ethics

The Natdogs Ltd is a keen supporter of the local economy, particularly nearby SME's, charities and community groups. Finance for the venue comes from a small ethical mortgage company, the business also employs services from a local independent accountant and a local business coach. Every effort is made to procure additional venue and accommodation hire services from local charities and small businesses.

The business also directly supports local charities, particularly nearby animal rescue centres through fundraising activities and providing pro-bono behavioural advice for animals in their care, along with discounted advice for adopters. Natdogs Ltd has a zero-tolerance policy to racism, bullying & modern slavery and is an LGBTQ+ ally.

*Produced by Jason Light, a Chartered Environmentalist and Fellow Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment on 23 January 2021*



# Natalie Light

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ASAB accredited Certificated Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CCAB)  
Full member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC)  
Full member of the Fellowship of Animal Behaviour Clinicians  
Animal Behaviour & Training Council (ABTC) registered  
Clinical Animal Behaviourist and Animal Training Instructor  
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