

Gulf Coast Humane Society

Whistleblower Protection Policy

Gulf Coast Humane Society requires directors, officers, and employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As employees and representatives of the Gulf Coast Humane Society, we must practice honest and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Reporting Responsibility

This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns internally so that Gulf Coast Humane Society can address and correct inappropriate conduct and actions. It is the responsibility of all board members, officers, employees and volunteers to report concerns about violations of Gulf Coast Humane Society's code of ethics or suspected violations of law or regulations that govern the Gulf Coast Humane Society's operations.

No Retaliation

It is contrary to the values of the Gulf Coast Humane Society for anyone to retaliate against any board member, officer, employee or volunteer who in good faith reports an ethics violation, or a suspected violation of law, such as a complaint of discrimination, or suspected fraud, or suspected violation of any regulation governing the operations of the Gulf Coast Humane Society. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

Reporting Procedure

Gulf Coast Humane society has a open door policy and suggests that employees share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with their supervisor. It you are not comfortable speaking with your supervisor or you are not satisfied with your supervisor's response, you are encouraged to speak with another such as the executive director, or a board member. Supervisors and managers are required to report complaints or concerns about suspected ethical and legal violations in writing to the Gulf Coast Humane Society's executive director who has the responsibility to investigate all reported complaints. Employees with concerns or complaints may also submit their concerns in writing directly to their supervisor or executive director.

Executive Director

The Gulf Coast Humane Society's executive director shall immediately notify the Audit Committee/Finance Committee of any concerns or complaint regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls or auditing and work with the committee until the matter is resolved.

Acting in Good Faith

Anyone filing a written complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

Confidentiality

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

Handling of Reported Violations

The Gulf Coast Humane Society's executive director will notify the person who submitted a complaint and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation. All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

Approved October 28, 2015
By the Board of Directors
Gulf Coast Humane Society