

## **Standard Policies and Procedures (SPOP)**

### **Introduction**

The Barkroom is an officially sponsored chatroom by Seattle Pups and Handlers (SEA-PAH). This Telegram group connects both members and non-members in order to keep in touch, talk about events and form new friendships. Anyone interested in pups, pets or handlers are welcome in the group.

The group is largely self-moderating, as our community does an excellent job of enforcing its own boundaries and keeping the Barkroom a safe and fun place to be.

The Barkroom Code of Conduct (COC) is below, but essentially amounts to: treat others how you want to be treated.

1. Respect each other. Racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, body and kink shaming jokes, comments, and insults are not allowed. Constructive discourse is welcome; however, the “devil’s advocate” discussions are not appropriate and will be handled accordingly. Blatant willful ignorance will not be tolerated.
2. While conversationally appropriate and inclusive NSFW discussion is allowed, please keep all photos, gifs, and videos SFW. Please respect fellow chatters' requests to remove NSFW content. Role Playing should be taken to a private chat between the participants.
3. Do not use this space to air personal grievances, spread gossip/rumors, etc. For concerns that directly involve SEA-PAH, or the community as a whole, please contact the Board directly via email ([board@seapah.org](mailto:board@seapah.org)). The Board will act in the best interest of the community.
4. Stickers or media depicting illegal activities are not allowed. Marijuana is legal in Washington, and thus media depicting marijuana use is allowed in the Barkroom.
5. By being in this space you agree to abide by the SEA-PAH Code of Conduct, Bylaws, and behavioral expectations as outlined above. Note that these rules and situations are the guidelines not an exhaustive list.

### **Moderators**

Moderators exist to step in and speak with a voice of authority when needed. While rare, violations of the COC do occur. When that happens, chat users will often start tagging mods for their immediate attention. Dealing with COC violations will be detailed further along, but the immediate response is for a moderator to step in and end whatever the conversation might be.

Outside of this, the role of moderator is a fairly uninvolved one. The ideal moderator is someone who cares about keeping the community open for everyone, and is willing and able to participate in the chat as a SEA-PAH member first. This means answering questions, engaging the membership, and in general being a positive role model for the community.

### **Barkroom Committee**

Moderators are part of SEA-PAHs Barkroom Committee. The purpose of the committee is to make sure the Barkroom is fulfilling the community’s needs. They will also be responsible for fairly enforcing the COC and keeping track of discipline that’s been issued.

## **Code of Conduct (COC) Violations**

### ***Non-Urgent***

Non-urgent violations are violations that were most likely done by accident or ignorance to the rules. The simplest example would be Pup Doe sharing a photo in violation of the NSFW policy. In this case the Moderator should:

1. Contact the member via telegram and explain the COC violation. Reference the post and the specific rule it violates, and ask the member to remove/edit their post. We're here to educate first and discipline as a last resort.
2. Share in the Barkroom Committee chat that a notice has been sent. A screenshot is often easiest.
3. If the member refuses to cooperate, the mod should then remove the offending post themselves.

### ***Urgent***

An urgent issue is something that poses a clear threat to the wellbeing of Barkroom members. An example would be Pup Doe going on a transphobic rant, or Pup Doe and Pup Buck airing their personal grievances towards each other. In this event:

1. The moderator will step in and inform the Barkroom as a whole that any further engagement in this topic is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary measures.
2. If the moderator is ignored and the violator(s) continue, moderators may issue an immediate 48 hour ban to the violator(s).
3. Assuming the violator(s) listened to the moderator and the behaviour was ceased, the moderator should then reach out to the violator(s) informing them of the COC section they have violated.
  - a. If the moderator had to ban the violator(s) they should cite the COC section violated and state that a temporary ban has been placed on them for 48 hours, pending review by the Barkroom Committee. The violator can expect more communication by the end of the second day from the start of the ban.
4. Communication, acknowledgement, and any discipline issued to members should be communicated with the Barkroom Committee for feedback, and in cases of egregiously bad behaviour the review of further disciplinary action.