



## **Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement**

### **An update from the Chief Executive**

This year, here, at the Blue Cross we have continued to improve our practices to combat slavery and human trafficking. This statement sets out the steps that Blue Cross and its wholly owned subsidiary companies are taking to try and ensure modern slavery is not taking place in our business or supply chains and is made pursuant to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. We strive to act ethically and with integrity in all of our business dealings and relationships to minimise the risk that modern slavery is taking place anywhere in our own business or in any of our supply chains. We shall also ensure our approach and stance is clear with our partner organisations. This statement covers Blue Cross and its two wholly owned subsidiaries, Blue Cross Trading Company Ltd and Blue Cross (D&B) Company Ltd

### **Organisation's structure**

We are a charity dedicated to helping sick, injured, abandoned, unwanted or homeless pets. Thousands of pets turn to us for help every year.

We are governed by a Board of Trustees who volunteer their time to help direct our work. They oversee our Directors who manage our staff (circa 800) and volunteers (circa 4,500) across the whole charity.

### **Our policies on anti-slavery and human trafficking**

We are committed to working towards ensuring that there is the lowest possible risk of modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. This year we are developing an Anti-slavery and Human Trafficking Policy which reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all of our business relationships. We will look to treat any breach of our Anti-slavery and Human Trafficking Policy very seriously. For example, any employee who breaches the policy will face appropriate disciplinary and or legal action.



We are also continuing the process of developing effective systems and controls to minimise the risk that slavery and human trafficking is taking place anywhere in Blue Cross or our supply chains. See below.

## **Supplier adherence to our values and ethics**

We are developing a Supplier Code of Practice and will be contacting our highest value suppliers and those suppliers we feel operate in the highest risk markets to ensure that they are aware of this and have understood our requirements of them.

## **Blue Cross' continued commitment**

We recognise the importance of maintaining constant vigilance to identify and address any issues associated with slavery and human trafficking in Blue Cross and throughout our supply chains. We are committed to continuing to enhance our capacity to identify, prevent and mitigate any actual or potential risks in these areas. This includes communications through various channels to staff and also the ability to report concerns through our Whistleblowing process.

As well as asking our Suppliers to confirm that they will follow our Supplier Code of Practice we will also perform due diligence procedures questioning commercial participators on elements within their supply chains that could be prone to abuse.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 (Part 6) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Blue Cross' slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. It has been approved by the Board of Trustees and is signed by Sally de la Bedoyere, the Charity's Chief Executive.

**Sally de la Bedoyere**  
Chief Executive, Blue Cross  
25 June 2019