

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Statement

Last Updated: 25/02/25

Who We Are

Birmingham Furs is a community and not an organisation or company. We are run by a board of volunteers referred to as organisers. We operate online through Discord and Telegram chats and also hold in-person meetups at SideWalk Bar. This GDPR statement explains how we collect, use, and share personal data in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

What Data We Collect

We may collect and store the following personal data:

- **Contact Information:** Your real name, fursona name, Telegram handle and Discord handle.
- **Meetup Attendance:** Photos of attendees at meetups.
- **Incident Records:** Records of incidents, including bans from public chats and venues, records and screenshots of online activity as evidence where necessary, and records of investigations where necessary.
- **Medical Information:** Medical information where necessary for health and safety purposes.
- **Telegram Chat Logs:** Our Telegram bot, **FeathersMCGraw**, records all messages posted in our public chats. This includes the text content of messages and links to any attachments (such as images or files) posted in the chat.
 - *Note: Attachments themselves remain hosted on Telegram's servers.*

Purpose of Data Collection

We collect this data for the following purposes:

- **Contact Information:** To facilitate communication within the community and manage membership.
- **Meetup Attendance:** To document community events and promote the group.
- **Incident Records:** To ensure the safety and security of our community, investigate misconduct, and enforce bans.
- **Chat Logs (FeathersMCGraw):** To investigate potential rule violations, address complaints, and ensure the enforcement of our Code of Conduct (COC).
 - **No Automated Decision-Making:** We do not use this bot or any collected chat data for automated decision-making processes; all moderation actions and ban investigations are performed by human organizers.

Legal Basis for Processing

We process your personal data on the following legal bases:

- **Contact Information:** We process this data based on our legitimate interests in facilitating community communication and managing membership. These legitimate interests are necessary for the operation of the Birmingham Furs community.

- **Meetup Attendance:** We process these photos based on our legitimate interests in documenting community events and promoting the group. These legitimate interests are necessary for the growth and visibility of the Birmingham Furs community.
- **Incident Records:** We process this data based on our legitimate interests in ensuring the safety and security of our community, investigating misconduct, and enforcing bans. These legitimate interests are necessary to protect community members from harm and maintain a safe environment.
- **Chat Logs:** We process this data based on our **legitimate interests** in ensuring the safety and security of our community and maintaining a moderated environment that adheres to our Code of Conduct.

How We Store and Protect Your Data

Storage:

- **Google Drive:** We store data on Google Drive, a cloud storage service provided by Google. We have taken the following steps to secure data stored on Google Drive:
- **Access Control:** Access to the Birmingham Furs Google Drive is strictly limited to authorized organizers with two-factor authentication.
- **Google's Security:** We rely on Google's security measures to protect the underlying infrastructure of Google Drive.
- **Database Storage:** Data captured by FeathersMCGraw is stored in a secure database. Access is strictly limited to authorized organizers as part of our incident response and moderation procedures.

Data Security Measures:

In addition to the measures described above, we have implemented the following security measures:

- **Confidentiality Agreements (NDAs):** All organizers have signed Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) to protect the confidentiality of personal data they access.
- **Regular Reviews:** We regularly review our security measures to ensure they remain effective and up-to-date.
- **Incident Response Plan:** We have an incident response plan in place to address any data breaches or security incidents.

Data Sharing

We only share relevant personal data with the following parties:

- Eden Bar for safety and security purposes
- UK Fur Online (UKFO), where necessary, for community management and safety

Your Rights Under GDPR

As a data subject, you have the following rights:

- The right to access your personal data
- The right to request correction of inaccurate or incomplete data

- The right to request deletion of your data (subject to our retention requirements)
- The right to restrict processing in certain circumstances
- The right to object to data processing in specific situations
- Right to Opt-Out
 - Users may opt out of data collection by the FeathersMCGraw bot at any time by leaving the Birmingham Furs Telegram group chats.

To exercise any of these rights, please contact us at **brumfurs@gmail.com**.

Data Retention

We retain personal data for as long as necessary to fulfill the purposes for which it was collected. Incident reports and records of bans are typically retained for five years, or five years plus the length of any ban imposed. In cases of permanent bans, records may be kept indefinitely. Other types of data, such as contact information, are retained for as long as you are a member of the community or until you request deletion. Photos from meetups will be retained until you request their removal. We will review our data retention policies periodically and delete data that is no longer necessary.

Messages and attachment links captured by FeathersMCGraw are retained for a period of **90 days**. After this period, the data is automatically deleted unless it has been flagged as part of an ongoing incident investigation.

Conduct and Props Policy

We have a Code of Conduct (COC) and Props Policy, which all attendees must follow. These policies are available on our website at **www.birminghamfurs.uk**.

Age Requirement

Our community chats are restricted to individuals aged 16 and over. While SideWalk Bar is open to the public, including patrons under the age of 16, our events are intended for individuals aged 16 and above. Attendees should be mindful of the presence of the general public in these settings.

Changes to This Statement

We may update this GDPR statement from time to time. Any changes will be posted, and we encourage you to review this statement periodically.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this GDPR statement or how we handle personal data, please contact us at **brumfurs@gmail.com**