



## **Animal Welfare Policy**

Animal welfare is about ensuring the wellbeing of the individual animal from the animal's point of view. It includes animal health and encompasses both the physical and psychological state of the animal. The welfare of an animal can be described as good or high if the individual is fit, healthy and free from suffering. To put it another way, when the animals are healthy and have what they need.

At Corn Close Care Farm we aim by our practices to enable all our animals to live as naturally as possible in stress-free surroundings.

### **HOUSING**

Animals are housed in appropriate housing for their species, breed and size. Access to outdoor space and shelter is a priority so that they can exhibit natural behaviours whenever possible.

Animal housing is cleaned regularly and suitable, clean bedding is always provided. Housing is not overcrowded and we ensure that animals have space to move freely and safely.

Due regard is paid to animals' different personalities so that animals can live together in sociable groups and no animal is persecuted by others.

New animals are quarantined on arrival and then introduced gradually to our existing animals, usually by means of housing in an adjacent pen initially.

Housing and fencing is repaired promptly when necessary to avoid the chance of injury or further damage.

### **FEEDING**

Animals are fed regularly according to the needs of their species, breed or size.

The health and weight of our animals is regularly monitored and their diet adjusted accordingly if needed.

Animals are fed on good quality feed and forage.

We have a good daily routine for feeding so that animals know when to expect food.

Competent persons only are permitted to feed animals and visitors will not be permitted to feed animals unless staff are confident that they have the required skills to do so

We discourage the feeding of titbits, rather we prefer to use some of the animal's daily food allowance if a treat is being fed.

### **ANIMAL HANDLING**

Our animals are competently handled regularly to ensure that they enjoy human contact and they are not stressed or anxious when being handled. They are always treated humanely throughout any handling procedures, such as administering medication or treatments.

All animal handlers are experienced and competent in handling and moving animals and understand the behaviour patterns of animals. Visitors will not be permitted to handle animals unless staff are confident that they have the required skills to do so. Visitors will always handle animals under supervision.

Animal handlers will receive suitable training and PPE if necessary.

Facilities for handling and loading, including ramps and races, are designed to minimise stress to the animals. Handling is calm and animals are never shouted at or hit. Adequate time is allowed to handle the animals calmly.

## **VETERINARY CARE**

Our animals are registered with Bishopton Veterinary Group and we will always seek veterinary advice if we feel that it is needed.

Veterinary procedures will be carried out by a qualified vet, away from the view of visitors.

Medication and treatments will be carried out by competent Corn Close Care Farm Staff. Visitors will not assist with this.

Sick animals will be quarantined either on site, away from other animals and visitors, or at alternative premises.

Deceased animals will be kept out of sight of visitors and will be disposed of correctly.

Elderly animals will be retired and kept away from visitors if they are no longer able to cope with Care Farm life.

All Corn Close Care Farm animals are kept up to date with worming and other necessary routine treatments.

Animal footcare is carried out by either competent Care Farm staff, a qualified farrier or a vet.

We encourage any of our staff, volunteers or visitors to report any concerns regarding animal welfare to the manager.

Date of policy	18.08.22
Review date	17.08.23
Name	Cath Wilson

Signed	Cath Wilson, 
Position	Manger