



## **Animal Welfare Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

Fields Farm Nature Play & Therapy CIC is committed to ensuring the highest standards of animal welfare for all animals in our care. Our animals play an important role in therapeutic, educational, and community activities, and their wellbeing is our top priority. We follow the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare, ensuring they are treated with compassion, respect, and proper care at all times.

### **2. Purpose of This Policy**

This policy ensures that Fields Farm Nature Play & Therapy CIC:

- Provides proper nutrition, housing, and medical care for all animals.
- Ensures animals are treated with kindness and respect.
- Protects animals from stress, harm, or neglect.
- Follows all legal and ethical responsibilities regarding animal care.
- Educates staff, volunteers, and visitors on proper animal handling and welfare.

### **3. The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare**

We commit to upholding the Five Freedoms, as set out by the Animal Welfare Act 2006:

1. Freedom from Hunger & Thirst: Providing clean water and a suitable diet.
2. Freedom from Discomfort: Ensuring appropriate shelter and comfortable living conditions.
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury & Disease: Providing veterinary care and regular health checks.
4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour: Allowing animals to interact, forage, and move naturally.
5. Freedom from Fear & Distress: Ensuring a safe, calm, and positive environment.

## **4. Animal Care & Husbandry**

### **4.1 Housing & Environment**

- Animals will be provided with clean, spacious, and species-appropriate housing.
- Outdoor spaces will be safe, enriched, and allow natural behaviours.
- All enclosures will be secure and regularly checked for hazards.

### **4.2 Nutrition & Feeding**

- Animals will receive a well-balanced diet suitable for their species.
- Fresh water will be available at all times.
- Feeding routines will be consistent and monitored for health changes.

### **4.3 Health & Veterinary Care**

- Animals will receive regular health checks and prompt veterinary care when needed.
- Preventative treatments (e.g., vaccinations, parasite control) will be maintained.
- Health records will be kept for each animal.

### **4.4 Handling & Interaction**

- Animals will only be handled by trained staff and volunteers.
- Interactions with service users and visitors will be supervised to ensure safety for both animals and people.
- Any signs of stress or discomfort will be noted, and interactions adjusted accordingly.

## **5. Ethical Use of Animals in Therapy & Education**

- Animals will never be forced to participate in activities.
- Signs of stress, fatigue, or illness will be monitored, and animals will be given breaks when needed.
- Activities will be designed to benefit both the animals and the people involved.
- Visitors will be educated on proper behaviour and respect for animals.

## **6. Safeguarding Against Cruelty & Neglect**

- Any suspected cases of animal cruelty, neglect, or mistreatment will be reported immediately.
- Fields Farm Nature Play & Therapy CIC will comply with the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and any other relevant legislation.
- Regular welfare audits and inspections will be carried out to ensure high standards are maintained.

## **7. Staff & Volunteer Training**

- All staff and volunteers will receive training in animal care, welfare, and handling.
- Training will cover species-specific needs, behaviour signs, and safe interaction.
- Refresher training will be provided to ensure ongoing best practices.

## **8. Reviewing This Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains in line with best practices and legal requirements.

## **9. Contact Information**

For any concerns or queries about animal welfare, please contact:

Emailing: [fieldsfarmcic@hotmail.com](mailto:fieldsfarmcic@hotmail.com)

Calling: Charlotte – 07584045836 or Kate - 07969472087

Writing to: Directors of Fields Farm Nature Play & Therapy CIC, 1 Fields Farm, Spalding Gate, PE126UF