



ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

The purpose of this document is to set out Deen City Farm's policy on Animal Welfare across all of our activities and to ensure that anyone representing us demonstrates good practice in relation to animal welfare. Deen City Farm is a registered charity that aims to teach local people about the rural environment, food production and animals. We are committed to providing the highest level of welfare to all of the animals in our care and we adhere the five principles of good animal welfare, as outlined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. These are:

1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress

Unlike most commercial farms, animals reared and kept at Deen City Farm may come in to contact with large numbers of people, many of whom will have no experience with or may not know how to behave around animals. As such, we endeavour to closely monitor animals during public opening hours to prevent misuse and/or ill-treatment.

As a registered charity, we aim to combine rural activities and education to actively engage local people, irrespective of their background or abilities. Animals are central to this aim and are used to engage and teach visitors to the farm and members of the local community at off-site events. We also operate a number of income generating activities that involve animals, as follows:

- *Animal Boarding*
The farm provides short term boarding for small pets on a contract basis. Our facilities are able to accommodate up to twenty-four small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs. Any animals admitted are health checked by a trained staff member, a full list of terms and conditions for animal borders can be [found on our website](#). The facility was purpose built in 2013 and adheres to the five basic principles of animal welfare outlined above. Only trained and supervised volunteers can assist contracted staff in the day to day husbandry of boarded animals.
- *Animal handling*
Small animals, such as rabbits and guineas pigs may be used as part of educational talks for school groups, at birthday parties or during on and off-site events. In such instances, we may give members of the public the opportunity to hold or stroke animals. These sessions will always be supervised by a member of staff or a suitably trained volunteer, who will look for signs of stress in the animal and ensure that they are not mistreated in any way.
- *Sale of Animals*
Occasionally animals may be sold to other smallholdings or as pets. In all cases, the Farm will make reasonable efforts to ensure that the buyer has the ability to provide for the ongoing welfare needs of the animal. No animal/bird is sold to anyone under the age of eighteen.

- *Horse riding*
Deen City Farm is a BHS (British Horse Society) accredited riding school, providing supervised lessons to visitors over eight years old and pony rides for children aged seven and under. As such, we adhere to all associated guidelines for riding establishments and receive regular inspections of our facilities from both the BHS and London Borough of Merton. We will not tolerate abusive riding and riders may be refused lessons if they are seen riding in an abusive manner.
- *Meat production*
As a working farm we are committed to promoting and educating our guests on sustainable and ethical food production – this includes the rearing of livestock for meat. As such, we occasionally send animals to a registered slaughterhouse via an authorised haulier, with produce being sold in our shop and café.

As well as providing a small, but important source of income to help keep the Farm open and free, we feel it is important for visitors to gain a realistic understanding of why farms exist and how meat is produced. Only then can they make an informed judgement on what and where they eat.

Additional information:

- *Animal registration and documentation*
Deen City Farm adheres to all relevant animal identification, movement and tracing regulations as outlined by DEFRA (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). All documents are audited annually by APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) who also inspect the health and wellbeing of our livestock.
- *Veterinary care and treatment*
The Farm's Livestock and Riding School staff are trained in the day to day husbandry of animals, which includes the administering of basic treatments and veterinary care. In instances where our Livestock or Riding School Managers deem it necessary, we will always consult an RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) registered veterinary surgeon to advise on and prescribe further treatments as required.
- *Euthanasia*
Where an animal is deemed to be in extreme pain or suffering due to illness or age, euthanasia may be considered as an option. Likewise, where an animal displays significant behavioural issues and cannot be safely or legally rehomed, then the decision may also be made to euthanize it as a last resort. In all cases, this will be carried out by a licenced person after consulting a veterinary surgeon.
Records of all euthanised animals are kept onsite for at least 36 months.
- *Spread of disease*
All animals at the Farm are monitored on a daily basis for signs of disease and we work closely with the London Borough of Merton's Environmental Health Department to ensure best practise with regards to biosecurity and the prevention of communicable

diseases. We monitor our animals for any signs or distress or ill health regularly and consult with a vet if any animal shows signs of ill health. We will always alert the ALPA and DEFRA to any outbreak of a notifiable disease.

Further reading:

- Animal Welfare Act 2006: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents>
- Horse welfare & care: <http://www.bhs.org.uk/welfare-and-care>
- Animal identification: <https://www.gov.uk/animal-identification-movement-and-tracing-regulations>
- Animal diseases: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/>

How to raise a concern

We aim to reflect and listen to the views of the community we serve and will therefore review this policy following consultation with our supporters on a regular basis.

If you would like further information, or to raise a concern about any aspect of animal welfare at the farm, please write to the Farm’s General Manager at *Deen City Farm, 39 Windsor Avenue, London, SW19 2RR*; or by email to manager@deencityfarm.co.uk

Reviewed by: Emma King (General Manager)	Signature: 
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