

Animal Welfare

Reference: FG01

Effective date: 23 July 2018

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Background

The city farm is a working farm. It keeps a range of animals (eg cows, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, poultry) to support its charitable aims. Animals are kept for the purposes of education, to provide a means of delivering therapies and as a source of food (meat from the pigs, goats, sheep and cows, and eggs, may be sold through the café and farm shop).

We aim to demonstrate the best welfare standards for farmed animals while they are with us and use a small local abattoir to undertake their slaughter to minimise journey times and to ensure a humane end to their lives.

The site also serves as a habitat for wildlife, some desirable, some that causes a nuisance.

Farm Animal Welfare

We adhere to legislation set by DEFRA (Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007” and the “Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010) and the Five Freedoms of animal welfare as recommended by Farm Animal Welfare Council and the RSPCA.

The Five Freedoms are as follows:

1. Freedom from hunger or thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4. Freedom to express (most) normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Unlike most commercial farms, livestock reared and kept at the city farm have contact with large numbers of people, many of whom have no experience of livestock and may not know how to behave around farm animals. We employ experienced, trained and ideally qualified livestock staff who supervise project delivery staff and volunteers working with our animals. We closely monitor stock to prevent misuse and/or ill-treatment.

Wildlife

In general terms, we seek to be a hospitable place for wildlife and to add to the diversity and amount of wildlife in our neighbourhood. The site has different areas with different purposes, some of which are focused on encouraging wildlife, in particular the ponds, front garden area and site fringes (where some ‘untidiness’ is tolerated in order to provide small-animal habitats. Bird boxes and insect ‘bug houses’ are sited around the site.

Activities such as trimming hedges and weed control are undertaken on a timetable to minimise disruption to wild animals and with methods that are, wherever possible, chemical free and following organic principles.

Some wildlife can be a nuisance and needs to be controlled.

Animals	Issue	Mitigation
Seagulls and pigeons	Can become aggressive around the café Cause damage to poly-tunnels and planting areas	Clear tables quickly Place bird scaring devices around key areas

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Migrating birds	Can carry bird flu to the domestic birds on site	Segregate wild and domestic birds when alerted to risk in migratory season.
Rats	Nobody likes a rat.	Contract with BCC pest control agency to control numbers. Semi-wild cats kept on site.
Mice	Generally only an issue around animal feed.	Store feed in rodent-proof cages. Keep feed store clean.
Foxes and badgers	Foxes attack domestic birds and make a mess. Badgers dig up the gardens.	Ensure bins are contained. Discourage from nesting on site.

We encourage local wildlife groups to undertake activities on site (eg butterfly counts) and disseminate their findings through our own channels where that is helpful.