

# Animal Policy

We are lucky enough to share our Forest School site with lots of animals. These include horses, donkeys, sheep, goats, cats, chickens, guinea pigs, and an occasionally visiting rescue dog.

All these animals provide amazing opportunities for the learners, but we need to be respectful when we're working closely with them. Most of the animals at Field of Joy would be prey animals if they were in the wild, so we need to be careful and gentle when working with and around them.

- Children must not enter any of the animal enclosures without seeking adult permission first.
- Always be calm, gentle, and respectful when working with or around the animals.
- No running when inside the animal enclosures.
- Always make sure to shut any gates securely behind you.
- When walking behind horses or donkeys, always make sure to leave a large gap. This is to ensure that you won't be harmed if they kick out their back legs suddenly.
- Do not feed any of the animals without first checking with a staff member or volunteer.
- Do not grab any of the animals suddenly. Always move in a slow, calm manner.
- If the animals show that they don't want to be picked up or stroked, then don't force them.
- Always wash your hands after working with any of the animals.

<b>Dated:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	<b>Reviewed:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024	<b>Signed:</b> C.Howells	<b>C. Howells</b>
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