



Animal Welfare Policy

Written by:	Rebekah Spowage
Approved:	April 2024
Version:	1
Reviewed:	April 2025 (RS)
Next review due:	April 2026

The Wildings is a smallholding covering 10 acres. A range of animals are kept in order to help manage the land in an environmentally responsible way and to support the aims of the care farm. The animals include sheep, goats, alpacas, horses and poultry.

The animals primarily support the learning and opportunities for care farm clients but also provide produce that can be used by the clients or sold to raise funds (eg eggs from poultry, fleece from sheep and alpacas.)

We adhere to the following legislation and guidance:

- DEFRA: Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007
- DEFRA: Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010
- Five Freedoms of animal welfare (as recommended by Farm Animal Welfare Council and the RSPCA)
- Five Domains of animal welfare (Mellor)

The Five Freedoms and the Five Domains:

The Five Freedoms	The Five Domains
1. Freedom from hunger and thirst	1. Nutrition - giving sufficient, balanced, varied, and clean food and water.
2. Freedom from discomfort	2. Environment - comfort through temperature, substrate, space, air, odour, noise, and predictability.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease	3. Health - enabling good health through the absence of disease, injury, impairment with a good fitness level.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour	4. Behaviour - providing varied, novel, and engaging enrichment through sensory inputs, exploration, foraging, bonding, playing, retreating, and others.
5. Freedom from fear and distress	5. Mental state - the animal should benefit from predominantly positive states, e.g., pleasure or comfort, while reducing negative states such as fear, frustration, hunger, pain, or boredom.

Table taken from Wildlife and Countryside Link, December 2021

Unlike many commercial farms, livestock kept at The Wildings have contact with people on a frequent basis. All staff, volunteers and clients are trained in appropriate animal care and husbandry and are closely supervised with animals, to prevent ill-treatment, either deliberate or through ignorance.

Rebekah Spowage is the named keeper of all animal stock and has final responsibility for ensuring animal welfare and maintaining this policy.

The Wildings Project CIC commits to the highest standards of animal welfare and aims to train animals using positive reinforcement and cooperative care principles. The policy will be reviewed annually, or as and when there are any changes in the law or processes within the organisation.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rebekah Spowage', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 08/04/2024