

## Forge Mill Farm- Animal Welfare Policy

December 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	Animal Welfare Policy 2023
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### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This policy is to be used by Sandwell Council and Forge Mill Farm staff managers, supervisors, and team members to deliver high standards of animal welfare, to identify what best practice looks like and to provide indicators for success/improvement in relation to animal health and well-being.
- 1.2 This policy includes the provision of regular inspection, accreditation and certification from external organisations including a nominated vet practice. Forge Mill Farm’s ambition is to become a centre of excellence in animal welfare food and farming education.

### 2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy is written for all animals within the management control of Forge Mill Farm across Sandwell Valley Country Park, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre and Forge Mill Farm and any other location animals within Sandwell Council’s management control are located.



- 2.2 This includes a variety of rare breed animals including sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, alpacas, horses, ponies, donkeys, chickens, ducks and rabbits.
- 2.3 Forge Mill Farm is also responsible for the care of all the rescued rabbits living in rabbit village at Sandwell Valley visitor centre.

### 3 Responsibilities

- 3.1 Forge Mill Farm and Sandwell Council take animal health and welfare seriously and are committed to delivering best practice and the highest standards of animal welfare. This policy has been produced to ensure that best practice standards are being met now and in the future.
- 3.2 The day-to-day management of this policy is the responsibility of the Forge Mill Farm manager, farm charge hand/supervisors and farm team members.

### 4 The law

- 4.1 *The Animal Welfare Act 2006* is the principal law relating to animal welfare. This law highlights the responsibility of owners and keepers to have a duty of care for their animals and make sure that their needs are met.
- 4.2 The welfare of farmed animals is additionally protected by the *Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007* which sets a minimum standard for all farm animals. It is the expectation that this policy goes above and beyond the legal requirements of animal welfare standards in the UK.

### 5 Industry Guidance - Five Freedoms

- 5.1 The internationally recognised five freedoms as recommended by the UK farm animal welfare committee has been used as a framework to guide this animal welfare policy and subsequent checklists, inspections, and third-party audits
- **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.



- **Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.
- **Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

## 6 Forge Mill Farm Best Practice

6.1 To ensure consistent best practice and high standards of animal welfare the following sections will be used as indicators of what best practice looks like at Forge Mill Farm to guide decisions made on the farm and direct current and future team members and farm managers.

### 6.2 Animal Feeding and Nutrition

- All animals to have continuous access to fresh, clean water.
- Species-specific animal feeding plans to be followed daily and updated based on animal need at each production stage.
- All ruminants, equines and rabbits to have continuous access to fresh forage- hay, silage, fed straw or grass.
- All poultry animals to have continuous access to concentrate feed/ grain.
- All animal concentrate/supplementary feeds/minerals to be purchased through agricultural suppliers in marked bags with clear ingredients list and traceable source of origin.
- All concentrates to be kept in rodent proof bins, clearly marked in compartments separated by species/food type.
- Animal feeding plans to be discussed and signed off by nominated vet practice.
- To pass an annual inspection of feed storage and feed analysis conducted by local authority representatives.

### 6.3 Housing and Environment

- All animal housing/shelters must have clean, dry bedding (straw or shavings)



- Animal Pens within barns and animal shelters to be ‘spot cleaned’ daily to remove animal faeces and wet bedding to be replaced with clean, dry bedding.
- Animal pens within barns to be ‘spot cleaned’ a second time in the afternoon to remove additional faeces.
- Stocking densities to show best practice bettering minimum industry standards.
- Barns to have good ventilation, to be free from excessive drafts and excessive heat/humidity.
- Animals in fields without a formal built shelter to have access to a suitable hedgerow/tree to provide shade in the summer.
- Animals and fields in the winter to have a dry stand-off area free from poaching and bare ground/mud.
- Animal pens and fields to be secure, free from damage and to cause no harm.

#### 6.4 Animal Behaviour

- Animals to be grouped to allow them to exhibit their natural behaviour and should be grouped by species, breed, age, production cycle, dominants, gender and/or condition where appropriate.
- Animals to have appropriate space/environment to exhibit natural behaviour to allow them to run, scratch, nest, perch, hide etc.
- Animals monitored daily for changes in behaviour group dynamic and appropriate action taken on discovery of problems/concerns.
- All animals to have minimum of six hours of daylight and six hours of darkness during a 24-hour period.

#### 6.5 Public Exposure

- All animals should be able to remove themselves from public reach/direct contact.
- All animals should have at least one side of their pen against a wall or away from public access to allow them to rest/sit/eat/drink out of reach of the public.
- Animals to be monitored throughout the day for signs of distress/being uncomfortable with the presence of visitors.
- Only animals comfortable with public presence should be placed within barns with high ‘visitor traffic’.
- Animals that have given birth to be kept out of public reach the first 48 hours.
- Members of public are not allowed within animal fields/pens.



## 6.6 Animal Interactions

- Trained/briefed member of staff to be present for all animal interactions.
- Animals selected for animal interactions should be trained and slowly exposed to groups of visitors at the speed they are comfortable with before taking part in demonstrations in front of large crowds.
- Animals that are unwell or heavily pregnant should not be used for animal interactions.
- All animal interactions to take place in 'neutral location' away from animals' pen/field.
- No rabbits to be held by members of the public.
- No horses or donkeys to be ridden by members of the public.

## 7 Animal Health Planning

7.1 Each species to have an individual health plan updated annually and signed off by a nominated vet practice. Health plans should be proactive and written to prevent/reduce the incidence of disease and maximise animal welfare and should contain:

- Current group numbers
- Changes since the previous year
- Required vaccinations
- Internal and external parasite control
- Foot care procedures
- Disease surveillance
- Management dates, scanning, lambing, shearing, weaning
- Young animal management and husbandry processes
- Animal treatment plans
- Breeding plans
- Condition scoring targets
- Goals for the species for the current year.



## 8 Antibiotic use

- 8.1 In line with the UK wide strategy to reduce antibiotic use and resistance in the UK following the O'Neil report published in 2016, Forge Mill Farm is committed to reducing antibiotic use.
- 8.2 A proactive, vaccine led approach to animal health and welfare is to be prioritised to reduce incidence of disease outbreak and the need for antibiotics. A focus on colostrum management and neonatal care is also to be prioritised to ensure that passive immunity is past to youngstock further reducing the need for antibiotics. No preventative group treatments of antibiotics are to be given unless specifically advised by a vet in exceptional circumstances.
- 8.3 Animal treatment plans are to be produced including animal treatment protocols for different types of illness/injury disease which are to include the correct time, type, and dose of antibiotic to be used. Treatment plans should be signed off and approved by a vet.
- 8.4 Any animal sickness/disease discovered without a signed off treatment plan must have an individual approved treatment protocol, discussed, and signed off by the farm manager. If there is any uncertainty around the type of antibiotic to be used a conversation with a vet on the phone is required to confirm the correct type.
- 8.5 Dosing instructions are to be followed exactly and courses of antibiotics are to be finished in line with dosing instructions to prevent resistance.

## 9 Anthelmintic Use

- 9.1 Forge Mill Farm is committed to preventing and reducing Anthelmintic resistance in line with the UK wide focus on the sustainable control of parasites within livestock.



- 9.2 A proactive, data led approach is to be taken to the prevention and treatment of internal and external parasites. Faecal egg counts are to be conducted during risk periods, at least three times a year, to determine the level of treatment required and the type of treatment to be used.
- 9.3 Blanket pre-emptive preventative treatments of mature breeding stock are not to be conducted unless specifically advised by a vet in exceptional circumstances.
- 9.4 Monitoring of the NADIS parasite forecasts, local environmental conditions, animal presentation and other risk factors are to guide decisions on the use of anthelmintics in high-risk groups when FEC results are not available and a speedy response as required to prevent an outbreak/animal welfare issue.
- 9.5 Group 1 wormers are to be used for youngstock treatment of nematodirus preserving group 2 and 3 wormers for later in the season. Group 4 and 5 workers are not to be used unless specifically directed to by vet in exceptional circumstances. An annual monitoring of anthelmintic effectiveness should take place to check for resistance.
- 9.6 Best practice procedures should be followed including appropriate dosing for the weight of the animal, following manufacturer's instruction, using the correct drug for the correct parasite and effective grazing management to reduce worm burden/resistance following treatment.
- 9.7 Within Sandwell Valley, long rest periods are to be left between grazing groups to reduce worm burden. In addition to this, rapid moves during high-risk periods to prevent re-grazing dirty fields and not grazing fields grazed in the previous year by ewes and lambs will further reduce worm burden.
- 9.8 On Forge Mill Farm Trail, careful management of grazing groups is required to ensure that high-risk animals are not followed by growing or immunocompromised animals and appropriate rest periods are left between grazing groups/species following the discovery of a worm burden.



9.9 The proximity to water course and environmentally sensitive fields should be taken into consideration before animals are treated with anthelmintics to prevent damage to local flora, fauna, invertebrates, and aquatic life.

## 10 Disease Surveillance

10.1 Appropriate disease surveillance to be undertaken in line with advice from the nominated vet practice directed by the national picture/national guidance.

Disease	Surveillance	Action
Bovine Tuberculosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual testing for bovine TB to take place in accordance with the Animal Plant and Health Agencies instruction.</li> <li>Pre-movement testing bovine animals leaving the holding is to take place in accordance with instruction from the APHA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any animals identified with the disease are to be euthanised</li> <li>The holding will be locked down until two consecutive clear tests of all stock has been achieved</li> </ul>
Bovine viral diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All cattle born on the holding are to be tested at tagging through tissue samples sent to a designated lab for testing.</li> <li>Any cattle brought onto the holding should have a negative BVD test or a BVD vaccination history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any animals identified with BVD are to be isolated from the group and culled.</li> <li>On identification testing of the whole herd will be needed.</li> </ul>
Johne's disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any new animals brought onto the farm are to be tested for Johne's disease before arrival or during quarantine.</li> <li>Any cattle who show signs of wasting/reduce production/infertility should</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any animals discovered with Johne's disease are not to be purchased or brought onto the holding.</li> <li>Goats are to be vaccinated against</li> </ul>



	be tested for Johne's disease and isolated from the group.	Johne's disease at birth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual plans created for any individuals identified with Johne's disease.</li> </ul>
CAE and CLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Random blood testing to be conducted alongside other blood tests</li> <li>Testing of old sheep/goats who are losing condition quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animals identified euthanised</li> <li>Further testing to be conducted on discovery of disease</li> </ul>
Toxoplasmosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing of suspicious abortions on discovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discovery of disease, isolation of affected individuals</li> <li>Treatment plan for whole flock/heard created with the use of vaccinations.</li> </ul>
Sheep scab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and testing of suspicious individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolation of infected individuals</li> <li>Group treatment in line with Vet advice</li> </ul>

## 11 Anthelmintic Use

11.1 Animal breeding plans to be produced as part of the animal health planning process with the aim to improve flock/heard health, productivity, breed standards, genetic diversity, and animal temperament

11.2 Animal breeding to take place to feed into existing animal stocks to reduce the number of replacement animals brought onto the farm from other locations and to generate teaching opportunities through showing commercial 'grass-based' livestock production across Sandwell Valley country Park.



- 11.3 Breeding plans to work towards the aims of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust with a focus on key species on the RBST watchlist. Breeding plans to work in conjunction with other RBST accredited farms to improve the national status of rare breeds kept at Forge Mill Farm.
- 11.4 Ruminant animals should not be bred more than once per calendar year and should be bred in line with their natural cycle of production without artificially inducing animals to come into season. Other animal should be bred in line with industry best practice.
- 11.5 Elderly animals, animal showing poor form, health status, breed standards, negative behaviours and any animals who had significant difficulty breeding in the previous year should not be bred from. Breeding decisions should be made in line with advice from the nominated vet practice.

## 12 Transport of Animals

- 12.1 Any animal transport will take place in line with the welfare of animals (transport) order 2006. Any individuals transporting animals should have a certificate of competence. Journeys are to be kept under 8 hours apart from in exceptional circumstances.
- 12.2 Journeys over eight hours, additional 2 transporter authorisation is required in addition to a journey log. Any journeys over eight hours should be signed off and approved by the nominated vet practice and farm manager.
- 12.3 Only registered animal transport companies/individuals are to be used for the transport of animals from Forge Mill Farm with modern, high welfare transport vehicles/trailers and appropriate training/certification.
- 12.4 Movement documents are always to be prepared prior to animal transport and carried with the transporter. Regular checks on animals during transport to be conducted to ensure appropriate space, ventilation, temperature, and welfare conditions are maintained.
- 12.5 Animals should be transported with appropriate groups in line with their size, breed, sex, and social grouping. Sick or injured animal should not be transported and animals with wet navels should not be moved off the farm.



## 13 Farm to Town

13.1 As part of the education outreach activities at Forge Mill Farm several events are planned throughout the year in which some animals from Forge Mill Farm and farming/food related activities are taken to parks, green space, and town centres within Sandwell.

13.2 The following conditions to be met to ensure high welfare standards are maintained:

- Only confident animals, used to public exposure, busy environments, loud noises, and regular handling/transport are to be selected for farm to town activities.
- Animals selected should be in good physical condition, not heavily pregnant and not injured, sick or suffering from any disease, diarrhoea, lameness, or other condition.
- Journey time of less than 45 minutes each way to selected location.
- No more than six hours on location
- Animals to have continuous access to food, hay, water, and dry/soft place to lie away from hazards.
- Animal pen to have one side away from public interaction so that they cannot be fully surrounded by members of the public and have an area to sit, lie, rest, eat and drink away from public reach.
- Animal pens to be under a gazebo to provide shade, shelter from rain and a sense of security/normality for animals that live in barns at Forge Mill Farm.
- Animals are to be with a trained member of farm staff throughout entire journey and time on location.
- Dogs and other animals are not allowed within the 'farm zone.'
- The livestock trailer should be kept within close proximity to the animal pens to allow for quick evacuation in and emergency.

## 14 Extreme weather



- 14.1 Hot weather and extreme winter weather plans to be produced and followed during indicated periods where the weather experiences considered to be extreme.
- 14.2 In the summer, the hot weather plan should be implemented when temperatures exceed 23°C.
- 14.3 These plans include actions to be taken to manage at risk groups and guidance on handling, increased checks, feeding, water provision and shade/shelter provision.
- 14.4 In winter, the extreme winter weather plan should be implemented during periods when temperatures drop below 5° for more than two consecutive days or if extreme wind and rain causes difficult environmental conditions for animals grazing within Sandwell Valley.

## 15 Sale of Livestock

- 15.1 Breeding, store, and finished animals are to be sold through reputable markets, direct to buyers or to other farms/farm parks.
- 15.2 Due diligence is to be conducted prior to the sale of animal's director buyers to ensure the receiving keeper has a legitimate holding number, suitable training, has experience to care for the animals and suitable space environment for them to live in. Animals are not to be sold to live in back gardens.
- 15.3 Abattoirs selected to send sheep, cattle, goats, and pigs directly to must follow the processes outlined by the Humane Slaughter Association, be regularly inspected with all animals being stunned prior to slaughter.

## 16 Young Animal Management

- 16.1 Tagging and castration of all animals must be completed between 24 hours and 7 days old. Tail docking of lambs must also be completed between 24 hours and 7 days old. Elastrator bands should be used for all Docking and castrating.
- 16.2 Disbudding of calves should be completed before eight weeks old using local anaesthetic, Metacam and a hot disbudding iron.
- 16.3 Tail docking and teeth clipping in piglets and beak clipping in chickens is prohibited.

## 17 Euthanasia



17.1 When an animal needs to be euthanised on the farm to prevent suffering it must be conducted by vet or a registered fallen stock service only. The farm manager is responsible for the decision to euthanise. The option to euthanise should be used proactively to prevent suffering and pain. In more complex situations a vet should be consulted to advise on the most appropriate actions to take.

## 18 Fallen Stock Collection

18.1 Any animal that dies at Forge Mill Farm is to be collected by a NFSCo registered fallen stock service within three days of death to be appropriately disposed of.

18.2 Whilst waiting for collection animals should be stored in a clean, leakproof bin with a lid out of reach of the animals, birds and members of the public.

## 19 Unexplained or Suspicious deaths

19.1 Unexplained deaths with no obvious cause/suspicious cause or a pattern of deaths (two or more) of a similar cause/type should be investigated quickly to identify cause and prevent the spread of disease/any further mortality.

19.2 The nominated vet practice should be called and discussion with a vet should take place to determine the best next cause of action. In all cases of suspicious death/pattern of death a post-mortem should be conducted to identify cause.

19.3 Following this an appropriate action plan should be made with the vets along with increased monitoring other at-risk individuals. All deaths, suspicious or not, should be reported and the appropriate processes followed is outlined later in the document.

## 20 Farm Biosecurity Policy

Potential Source of Disease	Action taken to control
Incoming livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine on arrival for 4 weeks in designated isolation area.</li> <li>• Vaccinated and treated for internal and external parasites at start of 4 weeks.</li> <li>• Blood tests were required for disease under surveillance.</li> </ul>



People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External contractors handling livestock (scanners/sharers/vets) to wear clean clothing, disinfected boots, and equipment.</li> <li>• Public advised to wash hands on exit and entry.</li> <li>• No public access to inside grazing fields or pens.</li> </ul>
Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing is to be washed and disinfected between groups.</li> <li>• Animal pens to be constructed to prevent animal faeces moving between animal housing areas and public areas</li> </ul>
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock trailer to be cleaned and disinfected after every change of group.</li> <li>• Handling systems to be washed and disinfected after each use.</li> <li>• Foot trimming/sheering/medical equipment to be washed and disinfected after each group/application.</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring the wider environment for disease outbreaks and changes in trends.</li> </ul>

## 21 Isolation Protocol

<b>Isolation trigger</b>	Animals that are identified as being unwell, contagious or a threat to visitor safety in addition to new, incoming animals.
<b>Location</b>	Walled pen in pig barn.
<b>Disinfection Protocol</b>	<p>Fully emptied and washed following every use.</p> <p>Disinfected using Vircox.</p> <p>Wash and disinfect all buckets and tools used.</p> <p>Foot dip on entry and exit with Vircox.</p> <p>No students, work experience students, volunteers, or visitors to enter the area.</p>



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## 22 Broken Needle Policy (sheep and cattle)

22.1 If a broken needle is left in an animal during treatment the farm will take the following action:

1. Mark the animal with a distinct and permanent form of identification and record the date, animal identification and injection site in the veterinary medicine record.
2. When the animal leaves the farm, the animal will be consigned direct to the abattoir and not sold to another producer. The movement/means of disposal will be recorded in the herd/flock record book.
3. If the animal is to be retained as breeding stock or for longer than 7 days the farm will check its health regularly and when it leaves the farm, follow the procedure at point 4.
4. If the animal is marketed after 7 days it will be sent straight to the abattoir and inform the abattoir in writing of the broken needle, providing details of the injection site and the date on which it occurred. The injection site with the broken needle will be marked on the animal before consignment.



## 23 Report and Recording

23.1 To ensure best practice is being followed appropriate reporting and recording processes should be put in place across Forge Mill Farm. This will increase accountability and improve animal welfare through improved management, better pattern recognition to detect problems and the ability to pre-empt/prevent future problems utilising data from previous years/incidences. Appropriate reporting and recording are also crucial for compliance with legislation surrounding keeping livestock.

### 23.2 Checklists and Spot Checks

23.2.1 Daily morning animal Health checks on every animal recorded on PSS live to include food, water, bedding, enclosure, and welfare checks to be completed by farm staff and collected by farm Charge hand/supervisor.

23.2.2 Afternoon animal welfare checks prior to closing include food water and welfare to be completed by farm staff and collected by farm Charge hand/supervisor.

23.2.3 Weekly Random spot checks to check for compliance with best practice guidelines to be conducted in-house to be completed by farm Charge hand, supervisor, or farm manager.

23.2.4 Additional external spot checks to be conducted by nominated vet practice outlined in the following section.



### 23.3 Sick, injured and Dead Animal Reporting

- 23.3.1 Sick/injured animal reporting process in place to identify animal, location, symptoms and timelines and escalation points to be completed by farm staff.
- 23.3.2 Sick/injured animal investigation form to be conducted by farm charge hand/supervisors to determine cause of sickness/injuries/patterns within the group to be signed off by farm manager.
- 23.3.3 Individual Treatment plan for all reported sick/injured animals to be put in place and signed off by farm manager.
- 23.3.4 Animal death reporting process including investigation form to identify animal, cause/reason for death, pattern recognition, steps to take to prevent further sickness/death, death date and collection date to be completed by farm charge hand/supervisor and signed off by farm manager.
- 23.3.5 Eight weekly checks of previous sickness, injury and death with nominated vet practice outlined in the following section

### 23.4 Medication Records

- 23.4.1 Animal medication purchase and stock record including expiry dates, medicine batch numbers and quantities to be kept up-to-date and accurate.
- 23.4.2 Animal medication administration record with administration dates, names, dosage, reason for treatment, animal identification, withdrawal periods, medication batch number and expiry date to be completed each time animal medication is administered.
- 23.4.3 Eight weekly checks by nominated vet practice outlined in the following section.

### 23.5 Births, Sale, and death records



23.5.1 Records of all births and deaths to be held in a flock/herd book to include lineage.

23.5.2 Registration with appropriate breed societies and government bodies of births/deaths.

23.5.3 The list of all animals on the holding to be always up to date.

## 23.6 Digital Systems

23.6.1 The utilisation of digital systems to streamline processes, maximise efficiency and improve traceability and resilience as a priority.

23.6.2 PSS live is to be used for all daily health checks and random spot checks. The farm management app Agri webb is to be used for registering animal's births, medications, movements, sales, deaths, and records of animal medications stored on site.



## 24 External Accreditation

### 24.1 Partnership with Nominated Vet Practice

24.1.1 A strong working relationship with the nominated vet practice will ensure that there is external involvement in animal welfare procedures to ensure the best practice is being followed and to monitor and improve animal welfare.

24.1.2 Once a year the nominated vet practice should conduct an unannounced visit and formal audit to cover all aspects of animal welfare, housing, feeding, storage, medication storage/recording and any other KPIs considered to be useful.

24.1.3 This will include a pre-booked vet visit to the farm approximately every 8 weeks during which the following will take place:

- Farm walk with senior charge hand, supervisor and/or farm manager the farm to observe the animals in their environments.
- A formal compliance checklist to cover animal welfare, animal environments, feed storage, medication storage/recording to be completed by visiting vet.
- Joint scrutiny of sick, injured, and dead animal reporting, investigating and treatment plans to discuss best practice, observed patterns and preventative measures.
- Advice and guidance for farm team around specific issues identified in the previous eight weeks including examining animals in question.
- Advice and guidance for the farm team to cover the upcoming eight weeks and any changes in feed planning, management and production cycles and health planning including any required vaccinations/medications.
- Faecal egg count sample collection of all animal groups
- Any routine medical procedures including vaccinations, dental work, dis budding and any other plan procedures.
- A 30-minute toolbox talk for all farm staff and volunteers about current disease concerns, plan procedures or new policies/management changes.



## 24.2 Animal Attraction Assured Certification

24.2.1 The National Farm Attractions Network, of which Forge Mill Farm is a member, have developed an Animal Attraction Assured Certification scheme (AAA certification) in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive and Kiwa Agri Food.

24.2.2 The certification scheme covers the industry code of practice of animal attractions written to ensure visitor safety when visiting animal attractions in addition to auditing and assuring animal welfare needs are met in line with the five freedoms.

24.2.3 The scheme involves an external annual audit which includes a site tour and documentation checks to confirm compliance with the scheme. Forge Mill Farm is to be accredited by the scheme by the end of 2023 and is to maintain certification.

## 24.3 Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Participation

24.3.1 Forge Mill Farm is to take part in the new Animal Health and Welfare Pathway released by government in 2022.

24.3.2 The first stage of the animal health and welfare pathway is a fully funded annual animal welfare review conducted by a vet. The farm will operate this in conjunction with its current plans to partner with a nominated vet practice for regular farm visits.

24.3.3 Future applications of the scheme include animal health and welfare capital grants and disease eradication and control programs and the possibility of entering a 'result led' reward scheme for improving animal welfare by 2025

## 24.4 Rare Breeds Survival Trust

24.4.1 Forge Mill Farm is an approved Rare Breeds Survival Trust farm Park and should look to retain its status by focusing on the improvement of rare breed livestock which currently includes Traditional Hereford Cattle, Golden Guernsey Goats, Bagot Goats, Leicester Longwool Sheep, Bore ray Sheep, Landrace Pigs, Oxford Sandy and Black Pigs, Tamworth Pigs with the aim to expand into rare breed poultry.



## 25 Team Training

25.1 To ensure the whole farm team can identify and treat animal welfare concerns appropriate training should be given to all staff.

### 25.2 Vet led eight-weekly toolbox talks

25.2.1 During each eight-week vet visit a 30-minute vet led Toolbox talk will take place of all farm staff members, volunteers and apprentices current disease concerns, plan procedures or new policies/management changes.

25.2.2 Toolbox talks will include information about fly strike, parasite control, condition scoring, health checking, feeding requirements etc.

### 25.3 Mastering Medicines

25.3.1 All core farm staff to take part in annual mastering medicines course delivered by nominated vet practice to cover the safe use of medicines, identifications of animal welfare concerns, appropriate recording and reporting processes and up-to-date information on new best practices in antimicrobial resistance

### 25.4 Lambing Training

25.4.1 Before lambing, all core farm staff, volunteers and bank staff expected to work during the lambing period should take part in annual lambing training delivered by nominated vet practice to cover pre-lambing management, feeding, housing arrangements, health checks, lambing assistants, neonatal care, colostrum management, tagging, ducking and castrating, reporting and recording.

### 25.5 Animal Transport certificate of competence

25.5.1 Any core farm staff required to transfer animals needs to have an Animal Transport Certificate of Competence, which allows the transport on journeys over 65 km up to 8 hours. This should be renewed every five years.

25.5.2 Shorter journeys do not legally require certification although internally all staff will be required to have a certificate of competence to move animals off the holding.



## 26 Key performance Indicators and Animal Welfare Goals

26.1 To measure success key performance indicators (KPI's) will be used in conjunction with checklists to monitor animal welfare and show any areas that require further progress.

26.2 The current indicators for success and goals for animal welfare at Forge Mill Farm can be found below. These will change over time following guidance from the nominated vet practice that the farm will be working with closely to continue to show best practice in animal welfare.

Species	Goal	Reason	KPI
All	Complete Utilisation of daily check lists	To promote best practice and accountability	100% checklist completion compliance
All	Achieve excellent standards of animal welfare and management	To promote best practice, improve animal welfare and accountability	Achieve a satisfactory or above in every eight weekly inspections.  Satisfactory or above or above in annual unannounced inspection
All	Achieve annual AAA accreditation	To maintain certification	Annual success during site inspection
Sheep	Reduce lameness prevalence within flock.	Previous problem with foot rot	Lameness below 5% annually (national average 10%)
Sheep	Improved standards of breeding ewes.	Ageing flock	50% of breeding ewes under five years old.
Sheep	Review sheep scab prevention policy	Minimise risk of resistance	Zero cases of sheep scab
Sheep	Reduce ewe mortality	To promote best practice	Ewe mortality of below 2.5% (national average 6%)



Sheep	Reduce lamb mortality from scanning to weaning.	To promote best practice	Under 10% lamb mortality scanning to weaning (national average 20%)
Goats	Reduce springtime lice problem	Ongoing problem with springtime lice	6 out of 8 weeks (May/June) of lice free population
Goats	Breed high quality Golden Guernsey and Boar Kidd replacements	To further populations and reduce ageing heard	One litter per year of purebred kids
Cattle	Reduce cases of joint/naval ill	Three cases in 2022 causing change in management practice	One or less cases per year of joint/naval ill
Cattle	Fence line weaning trial	to reduce stress and growth implications at weaning	Two-year trial of fence line weaning
Chickens	Reduce springtime mite problem	Historical problem with springtime mites	6 out of 8 weeks (May/June) of mite free population
Rabbits	Ensure full compliance with vaccination and parasite control programme	Prevent disease outbreak and mortality	100% completion/compliance with vaccination/parasite control programme.



## 27 Supplementary Documents

### 27.1 Health Plans

27.1.1 Sheep health plan

27.1.2 Goat health plan

27.1.3 Cattle health plan

27.1.4 Other species health plan- horses, donkeys, alpacas, poultry, pigs

27.1.5 Rabbit village health and well-being management plan

27.1.6 Species-specific treatment protocol

### 27.2 Management Plans

27.2.1 Animal feeding plan and map

27.2.2 Rabbit village feeding plan a map

27.2.3 Forge Mill Farm cleaning regime

27.2.4 Rabbit village cleaning regime

### 27.3 Checklists

27.3.1 Forge Mill Farm animal welfare morning checklist

27.3.2 Forge Mill Farm animal welfare afternoon checklist

27.3.3 Forge Mill Farm animal welfare spot checklist

27.3.4 Rabbit village animal welfare morning checklist

27.3.5 Rabbit village animal welfare afternoon checklist

27.3.6 Rabbit village animal welfare spot checklist

### 27.4 Recording and reporting Documents

27.4.1 Sick/injured animal reporting form

27.4.2 Sick/injured animal investigation form

27.4.3 Individual Treatment plan form

27.4.4 Animal death reporting and investigation form

27.4.5 Fallen stock pick up form

27.4.6 Digital flock, herd, and other animal records



## 27.5 Emergency Plans

27.5.1 Forge Mill Farm hot weather plan

27.5.2 Rabbit village hot weather plan

27.5.3 Forge Mill Farm extreme winter weather plan

27.5.4 Rabbit village extreme winter weather plan

27.5.5 Forge Mill Farm Flood evacuation plan

