



## ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY – HUCKLEBERRIES NURTURE FARM CIC

**Member Committee Responsible:** Full Members Board

**Senior Lead for Safeguarding:** Beverley Cook

**Status and Review Cycle:** Statutory annual

**Approved by:** Members Board

**Date of Next Review:** May 2021

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### Revision History

Version	Changes	Approval Date	Author
1.0		26 Nov 2019	B Cook
2.0	Included Small Shepherd guidance on electric fencing	4 May 2020	B Cook

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### Our Company Statement

Huckleberries Nurture Farm CIC is founded on the principles of trust, honesty and integrity, respect for human and animal rights and welfare, respect for the environment, our employees, volunteers, visitors and business partners, and with the interests of the community for which we were set up to serve, at the heart of what we do.

Animals play a special role at Huckleberries; close contact with the animals helps each child to overcome social, emotional and/or mental health issues, however the welfare of the animals is one of our top priorities and time is invested to ensure the children understand how to hold, respond and care for our animals and to respect their five freedoms. We have a zero-tolerance policy against any cruelty or mistreatment of our animals.

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to ensure high standards of animal welfare on our farm, and we are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest possible standards of animal welfare. From birth or hatching, rearing, and throughout their working lives until they die, and during transportation, we uphold the five freedoms concept promoted by the Farm Animal Welfare Council:

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

## Implementation

We recognise our animals are sentient beings and their welfare embodies their good health, physical condition and mental well-being. We enable each animal to express species-specific behaviour, including the need for companionship and bonding with other animals of the same or different species and for grazing, foraging, digging, running and playing.

In upholding high standard in animal welfare, we will:

- Always uphold their five freedoms.
- Comply with applicable legislative standards.
- Avoid daytime confinement for all farm species.
- Provide a large outdoor run for our rabbits (appropriately confined for their safety), with the opportunity to recreate natural activities, such as digging, grazing, bonding and running.
- Provide an outdoor covered run for use by our chickens and ducks, should their temporary confinement be required due to an outbreak of bird flu.
- Provide field shelters or housing for all our animals, and ensure they are kept safe overnight from predators.
- Avoid electric sheep netting to prevent entanglement of young animals and instead use electric rope where needed.
- Neuter our domestic animals (rabbits, cats, dogs) by veterinary procedure under anaesthetic
- Castrate any ram lambs and billy kids that we intend to keep so enabling them to reside with their herd and ensure their mental well-being. Castration will be carried out at birth by ringing or by veterinary procedure under general anaesthetic.
- Disbud our goat kids, and where necessary sheep by veterinary procedure under general anaesthetic. Disbudding is to ensure the safety of children on the nurture farm.
- Ring lamb tails at birth to reduce the risk of fly strike.
- Provide and maintain living conditions that include environmental enrichment suitable for specific species
- Ensure the safety of our animals in transit, provide access to feed and water, and keep journey times to a minimum, and less than 8 hours
- Use antibiotics carefully and under veterinary advice.
- Optimise other routine parasitic treatments to avoid overuse, and in combination with drug free methods such as faecal egg counts, and natural preventative methods such as Vernix and cider vinegar feed additives, access to herbs, use of diatomaceous earth etc.
- Ensure the environment is safe for animals, and toxic or poisonous plants are eliminated from their reach.
- Ensure fencing is adequate, maintained and safe.

- Ensure animal needs are met in the absence of their main carer, through adequate arrangements for holiday cover staff.
- Comply with RSPCA policies and breed guidelines for any breeding practices for our livestock and always prioritise the welfare of parents and offspring.
- Not allow any animal to suffer at the end of their natural life, and where necessary end suffering through humane despatch of our chickens and ducks, and by seeking veterinary care to euthanise other sick or injured animals.
- Review this policy annually to ensure that it remains current with best practice in animal welfare.

## Responsibility

Beverley Cook, Director, is responsible for ensuring the implementation of this Animal Welfare Policy, however, all Directors, employees, volunteers and business partners have a responsibility in their respective area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met. A briefing on this policy is included in our induction process.

Signed by:



Position: Director  
Dated: 04/05/2020