



Infection and Disease Management Policy

Review Due: 12/03/2026

Location: Bales Farm, Dacombe, Newton Abbot, England, TQ12 4ST

Purpose:

This policy applies to all visitors, staff, and volunteers interacting with animals at Bale's Farm. It outlines procedures for handling animals, hygiene practices, supervision, and reporting protocols for illness or injury to minimise the risk of infections and diseases.

Policy Guidelines:

Supervision Requirements:

- Animals must always be supervised by Bale's Farm staff or authorised handlers during interactions.
- Children must be accompanied and closely supervised by a responsible adult when interacting with animals.

Health and Hygiene Measures:

- Handwashing facilities must be used by visitors before and after interacting with animals.
- Individuals with open wounds, skin conditions, or compromised immune systems must consult Bale's Farm staff before engaging with animals.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided when necessary.

Animal Handling Protocols:

- Small Animals (e.g., rabbits, guinea pigs): Handle gently and avoid overhandling to minimise stress.

- Farm Animals (e.g., Horses, Ducks, Chickens and Pigs): Maintain safe distances unless guided by Bale's Farm staff, especially for untrained handlers.

Cleaning and Waste Management:

- Animal enclosures and interaction areas must be cleaned and disinfected daily. This should be recorded on the cleaning log.
- Waste, including faeces, must be disposed of in the designated bins immediately.
- Equipment, such as brushes and feeding tools, must be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Disease Prevention and Veterinary Care:

- All animals at Bale's Farm must have up-to-date vaccinations and routine veterinary checks, with records maintained for inspection.
- Any animal showing signs of illness or injury must be reported to a manager immediately. The manager will:
 - Record the issue in the Injury/Illness Log.
 - Arrange a veterinary appointment promptly to assess and treat the animal if necessary.
 - Animals with illnesses must be quarantined until cleared by a veterinarian.

Visitor Safety and Responsibilities:

- Visitors must follow staff instructions at all times and report incidents such as bites, scratches, or allergies immediately.
- Eating, drinking, or smoking near animals is prohibited.

Emergency Response Protocol:

- Any suspected outbreak of an infectious disease must be reported to the relevant authorities immediately.
- Contact tracing measures will be implemented by maintaining detailed logs of visitor-animal interactions for off-site visits with the Therapy Dogs. A register and visitor book will be used on the farm to maintain records of contact for all other animals.

Review and Updates:

This policy is reviewed annually or as needed to comply with updated regulations or address emerging health concerns.