



# PONY PARTNERSHIPS



## Animal Welfare Policy – 2025–2026

**Name of Organisation:** Pony Partnerships CIC

**Venue/Address:** All venues

**Date of Review:** 1 September 2025

**Date of Next Review:** 31 August 2026

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### 1. Policy Statement

Pony Partnerships CIC is committed to the highest standards of animal welfare in line with:

- The Animal Welfare Act 2006
- The Five Welfare Needs (Animal Welfare Act, Section 9):
  1. Need for a suitable environment.
  2. Need for a suitable diet.
  3. Need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns.
  4. Need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals as appropriate.
  5. Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury, and disease.
- DEFRA Animal Activities Licensing Guidance.
- Local authority licensing requirements for animal-based activities.

All staff, volunteers, and contractors are expected to act with respect, compassion, and professionalism in all interactions with animals, ensuring that their physical, psychological, and emotional wellbeing is prioritised.

### 2. Guiding Principles

Pony Partnerships CIC subscribes to *The Compassionate Equestrian* principles (Schoen & Gordon, 2015), which promote respect, kindness, and mindfulness in all equine and animal care. This includes:

- Recognising the sentience of animals.
- Avoiding any harmful, aggressive, or ego-driven behaviour.
- Observing and responding to subtle signs of pain or distress.
- Providing a peaceful, low-stress environment.
- Committing to ongoing self-reflection, professional development, and humane practice.

### 3. Welfare Management

#### 3.1 Feeding & Nutrition

- All animals have individual feeding plans, reviewed **seasonally** to account for workload, health, age, and breed.
- Weight and body condition scoring conducted **at least quarterly** using a weigh tape or weighbridge.
- Access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- For equines: hay/haylage provided where grazing is insufficient; feed adjustments for seasonal weight changes.
- Worming carried out in accordance with a targeted worming programme, with worm counts as required.

### 3.2 Housing & Environment

- Stables cleaned daily (mucked out or skipped out depending on bedding type).
- Deep clean and disinfection every **two months** or immediately after any infectious disease case.
- Fields poo-picked daily and checked for hazards.
- Stables, fences, gates, and equipment regularly inspected for safety hazards.
- Shelter available in fields with adequate space to reduce competition.

### 3.3 Health & Veterinary Care

- Daily health checks incorporated into grooming routines.
- Any signs of illness, injury, or distress reported immediately to the Clinical Lead or Yard Manager.
- Veterinary advice sought promptly for all suspected health concerns.
- Preventative healthcare maintained, including vaccinations, farriery, dental checks, and parasite control.
- Isolation facilities used for contagious or suspected contagious cases, following full **biosecurity protocols**.

### 3.4 Transport

- Vehicles checked before and after each journey for flooring, partitions, tie rings, and lights.
- Animals transported in line with the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006.

### 3.5 Behaviour & Handling

- Positive, reward-based handling methods used; no use of physical punishment or force.
- All staff trained in safe handling, animal behaviour, and low-stress introduction techniques.
- New animals introduced gradually, with observation for signs of stress or aggression.

## 4. Emergency Protocols

- **Escaped animal:** Call police (101), secure the area, notify local contacts, and arrange veterinary standby.
- **Sudden death:** Notify designated removal service, cover the animal, restrict access.
- **Uninhabitable premises:** Relocate animals according to pre-agreed contingency plans (contacts listed in Appendix A).
- **Licence suspension:** All licensable activities to cease immediately until reinstated.

## 5. Biosecurity & Infectious Disease Control

- Isolation stable and paddock available for suspected contagious cases.
- Foot dips, PPE, and tool disinfection used to prevent spread.
- No shared equipment between infected and healthy animals.
- Local yards and relevant stakeholders notified if a contagious disease is confirmed.

## 6. Responsibilities

- The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- The Clinical Lead oversees health and welfare standards.
- All staff and volunteers must follow welfare procedures and report concerns without delay.

## 7. Monitoring & Review

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07505951793/info@ponypartnerships.com/www.ponypartnerships.com

- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, licensing requirements, or operational needs change.
- Records of feeding, veterinary care, and welfare incidents are maintained for inspection.



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## Appendix A – Key Contacts

- Vet (Farm & Equine): Scarsdale Vets, Markeaton Lane, Derby, DE22 4NH - 01332 294929
- Vet (Cat): White Cross Vets, 1238 London Rd, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 8QP - 01332 756060
- Animal removal: Duncan – 07870 528701
- Contingency rehoming contacts:
  - Moo-Haven (Horses/sheep) - Linda Hughes, 07812 028851
  - The Donkey Sanctuary (Donkeys) - 01395 578222

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