



Health & Safety Info for organisers

The Mobile Farm is self-contained & can set up on either grass or hard standing. We have gazebos so the visit can go ahead in wet weather providing it is not too windy & we will leave the area as clean & tidy as we reasonably can.

The only requirements we have are:

- Where appropriate (e.g. school visits, children's parties etc), a sufficient number of adults for child supervision
- A site to set up with access & parking for vehicles & trailers.
- If possible, a source of clean water (please let us know if there is no external tap available, this is normally only required for public events)
- No other livestock present in area.
- No dogs present in area

Visitors will also need access to hand washing facilities. If these are not available please let us know in advance so that we can provide mobile sinks (for which we make a small charge). If the hand washing facilities are not adequate, Environmental Health will insist that the event is viewing only with nobody allowed to touch the animals. For schools, teacher supervision of pupils washing their hands within the normal school facilities is usually sufficient.

Supervision

Supervision of children with the animals is the responsibility of the person or persons organising the event, or the parents/guardians of children attending the event, not Fishers Mobile Farm

General Health & Safety Rules

All visit organisers should be aware of the following rules.

Whilst there is always a potential risk from any animal visit, this risk can be easily controlled by good hygiene & by taking some common sense precautions. For public events we will display notices highlighting the points made below, but it is as well if you are aware of these issues in advance. For parties & care homes where display of such notices is impractical event organisers should ensure that all their helpers are aware of the points below.

- Visitors should wash hands, using soap & running water after handling animals & particularly before eating or smoking.
- Parents & guardians should not allow children to kiss the animals.
- Anyone with animal allergies should not approach the animals too closely – for schools & party organisers where young children are present, any allergies should be ascertained in advance.
- Children under 3 years of age are particularly vulnerable to certain diseases sometimes carried by animals, particularly young ducklings & chickens, so very close supervision is required.
- Children should not put fingers in their mouths.
- Children should not put their mouths on the bars of the pens.
- Children should be forbidden from eating sweets or other snacks during our visit – this is particularly an issue for children's parties – it may be better to organise the event such that refreshments are served after the children have met the animals)
- All cuts, wounds & grazes should be covered with a waterproof dressing to avoid infection.
- Children's dummies that have fallen to the ground should not be put back into children's mouths.
- All responsible adults should be made aware of these guidelines. We have information signs warning about these health & safety issues.
- No one should attempt to feed the animals except under the guidance of & at the suggestion of a member of the Mobile Farm staff.

Touching Animals

When touching animals maintenance of good hygiene is most important.

- Do not consume food or drink,
- Cover any open cuts or abrasions on the exposed skin of hands & arms with waterproof adhesive dressings,
- Wash your hands with soap & water before & directly after handling animals.
- Keep animals away from the face.
- Avoid sudden & abrupt movements in front of the animals
- Although our animals are all usually very friendly, animals are always unpredictable & there is always a risk of bites & scratches – particularly from rabbits.
- Small fingers poked towards the mouths of normally non-aggressive animals may be interpreted as an offering of food & obligingly bitten.

Diseases, parasites & allergies

- The likelihood of diseases being passed on from animals is low. However allergic or other reactions to mammals, birds & a few other animals cannot be discounted.
- These might result from handling the animals or just from being near them & be detected by the development of skin rashes, irritation to the eyes & nose or breathing difficulties.
- Hand washing soon after handling animals will help.
- Parents/guardians should watch for the development of allergic reactions in children who come into contact with the animals.
- Anyone with known animal allergies should not approach the animals too closely.

Advice to pregnant women during the lambing/kidding season

- The Department of Health, the Defra, & the Health & Safety Executive have advised that pregnant women who come into close contact with sheep & goats during lambing/kidding may risk their own health, & that of their unborn child, from infections that can occur in some ewes/nanny goats.
- Although these infections are uncommon, & the number of human pregnancies affected by contact with sheep or goats is extremely small, it is important that pregnant women are aware of the potential risks & take appropriate precautions.

IMPORTANT INFO:

Additional costs - mobile sinks £40

Public events: The hand washing facilities must be directly next to the Mobile Farm location, if not, mobile sinks are essential.

School visits: School staff manage the children's hand washing, so mobile sinks are NOT normally necessary for the children, but visiting adults (parents) cannot be managed in the same way & mobile sinks are therefore ESSENTIAL.

If parents will be visiting & you do not want us to bring mobile sinks, you would have to provide hand washing facilities (running water, soap & paper towels) IMMEDIATELY NEXT to our location. Hand gel is not sufficient.

Parties/Care Homes/Private Homes: Parents/carers will have to manage hand washing & ensure anyone who has touched our animals is taken directly to the hand washing area. This is especially important if food & drink is available for guests.

If the hand washing facilities are not in place or inadequate, you would have to then have a "viewing only" event. This does not just mean telling the visitors that they cannot touch the animals, it means cordoning off the areas where the animals are so that they cannot be touched.

Sorry, these are not our rules, they are those of Environmental Health.