



On The Hill & Oxen Park Farm

Dog Policy

On The Hill is a Community Interest Company based on Oxen Park Farm in South Devon.

On the Hill CIC delivers land-based residential camps for large groups of children, young people and adults, and families, as well as day visits, work experience, alternative educational provision and venue hires of the Oxen Park Farm premises.

Oxen Park Farm is a busy 55 acre working farm, managed with the principles of regenerative agriculture.

The farm is home to a flock of Shetland sheep and chickens, and has a number of seasonal volunteers and key staff managing the facilities.

The farm is host to Teign Greens CIC, a Community Supported Agriculture project providing weekly vegetable bags to families in the Teign Valley.

Rationale for the Dog Policy

There are clear Health and Safety issues that can arise from having dogs around people, including allergic reactions, and if the animal is not closely supervised or controlled, injuries from tripping or even biting. Moreover, some staff, students and visitors may have a genuine fear of animals and this has to be respected.

Due to the nature of our work, the large numbers of children, young people and adults we host on site, the busyness and noise, we have a

NO DOGS POLICY whenever we have any public facing programmes, events, day visits, work experience students, alternative education provision or residential camps on the farm.

This message will be clear on our correspondence/website/event publicity, and on arrival at the farm on a noticeboard.



Farm visitors

We often receive unexpected visitors at the farm to buy hay or to enquire about the variety of active projects. If visitors unexpectedly arrive at the farm with a dog, they will be asked to keep their dog in their vehicle. They will then be asked to leave if this request cannot be followed.

Exceptions

We have a couple of key staff/volunteers who are dog owners. By arrangement and agreement with Oxen Park Farm and On The Hill Directors these staff may, if they can't arrange a dog sitter while at work, bring their dog to the farm, **BUT ONLY WHEN NO PUBLIC FACING EVENT IS ACTIVE.**

On these occasions the following must be adhered to:

1. The dog must be kept in a vehicle.
2. Dog owners can take their dog for exercise and toileting with the dog always on a short lead away from farm personnel and all communal places.

Communal areas include the outdoor kitchen, the barns, the toilet blocks, the workshop, the circle garden, the outdoor growing areas and polytunnels.

3. Dog owners must be vigilant to their dog toileting while on a walk and take responsibility for clearing it up and disposing of it safely.
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