



Safety Guidelines at EverDale Stables

Miniature Shetland Therapy Ponies & Small Animals Team

We're delighted to welcome you to EverDale Stables—where magical, memorable, and safe experiences await.

Your wellbeing and the welfare of our animals are at the heart of everything we do. Below are some friendly guidelines to help make your visit smooth, enjoyable, and worry-free.

Please take a moment to read through them, and if anything isn't clear or you have special requests, just let us know!

🚫 Animal Enclosures 🚫

Please do not enter any animal enclosures unless a team member accompanies you.

Our staff will guide every interaction to keep both you and the animals comfortable and secure.

👢 Protective Clothing 🌈

- Footwear: Hard-soled, fully enclosed shoes or boots (with socks) are essential to protect your feet.
- Trousers: Long trousers help shield your legs when interacting with animals.
- Weather Gear: The British weather can be unpredictable! Pack whatever you need: waterproofs, sun cream, a sun hat, gloves, a warm coat—so you stay comfortable all day long.

🚫 No Smoking or Vaping 🚫

To keep our environment fresh and comfortable for everyone (especially the animals!) Smoking or Vaping is not permitted anywhere on site.

Thank you for helping us maintain a clean, welcoming atmosphere.

Understanding Ponies & Horses

Our Shetland ponies are gentle, curious, and love attention—especially when it involves a good brush! With a little care and kindness, they're happy to share magical moments with you.

While our ponies are beautifully trained and wonderfully gentle, it's still important to remember that any pony can bite or kick if they feel frightened or unsure—just like any animal. Being calm, kind, and aware helps keep everyone safe and happy.

Here are some key tips to make your time with them both safe and enjoyable:

1. Ponies may move unpredictably if they feel startled or unsure.
2. It's best to avoid standing directly behind a pony, as they can't see you there and might become startled.
3. If you need to pass behind, either give them a wide berth or gently place your hand on their bottom to let them know you're there—this reassures them.
4. Always approach calmly from the side—ideally at the shoulder or neck—so they can see you coming.
5. Avoid sudden movements or loud noises, which might make them nervous.
6. Watch for signs of discomfort—ears pinned back, swishing tails, or a tense posture—and step back. If needed, our team will guide you through the next steps.
7. Never crouch or kneel near a pony's legs or underneath their body, for your own safety.
8. Keep your hands and fingers away from their mouth unless a team member invites you to offer a treat in a safe way.
9. Our ponies are often very happy to have their tails brushed, which can be a wonderful way to bond. We always supervise this carefully, following the precautions above to ensure everyone—including the ponies—feels relaxed and safe.

Our team will be by your side at every step, making sure your time with our ponies is both magical and secure.

Small Animal & Farm Animal Safety

We love sharing our small animals—rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, pygmy goats, and sheep—with our visitors, but it's important to interact safely:

- Gentle Handling & Baskets: To keep them calm and comfortable, we place small animals in soft-lined “cuddle baskets” rather than having visitors pick them up. This helps regulate their stress and keeps them secure.
- Risk of Bites, Scratches, Nibbles & Jumps: Even the gentlest rabbit or guinea pig might nibble or scratch if startled. Sheep and goats, too, can nibble at clothing or hands out of curiosity—and goats may sometimes jump if they’re excited. Please follow our team’s instructions closely and allow animals to stay in their baskets unless a staff member guides you otherwise.
- Hygiene First: Wash your hands thoroughly after handling any animals (or their baskets). Hand sanitiser stations are available throughout the site.
- No Unsupervised Feeding: For their wellbeing, please do not feed any animals unless a staff member specifically invites you to do so.

Important Notes for Pregnant Visitors

If you’re expecting, please avoid contact with sheep that are due to lamb or have recently lambed—they may carry infections (like toxoplasmosis or chlamydiosis) that pose a risk during pregnancy.

If you have any concerns, just let us know, and we’ll make sure you can still enjoy a wonderful visit.

Hygiene Reminder

- Wash Your Hands: Always wash your hands thoroughly after touching any animals or their baskets.
- Handwashing & Sanitiser: Stations are provided around the site.
- These steps help reduce the risk of zoonotic illnesses (diseases passed from animals to humans), such as E. coli or ringworm, keeping everyone healthier and happier.

Booking Your Visit

When you confirm your booking, you’re letting us know that you:

- Have read and agree to follow the safety guidelines above.
- Will share these key points with any children or young people in your group.

We appreciate your cooperation and can't wait to welcome you to EverDale Stables!

 **We're Here to Help** 

If you or anyone in your group has additional needs, special requests, or mobility considerations, please let us know in advance.

We're always happy to make adjustments so every guest can enjoy a truly fantastic experience here at EverDale Stables.