

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

Date Created	01/11/17
Status	Final
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1. SCOPE

EasTec UK Ltd work with its instructors, assessors, examiners, verifiers, quality assurers and learners to ensure that live animals are properly looked after where they are involved with EasTec UK Ltd training, qualifications, and or assessment activities.

This requires more than simply protecting them from cruelty. We need to meet their needs for food, water and living space, protect them from disease, and create a healthy and stress-free environment for them.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The policy applies to learners and EasTec UK Ltd instructors, assessors, examiners, verifiers and quality assurers. Anyone who has care of an animal must provide for its needs. These needs include:

- **the need for a suitable environment** (including appropriate accommodation or shelter and a comfortable resting area)
- **a suitable diet**, which should be adequate to maintain full health and vigour
- **the ability to exhibit normal behaviour**, this could be met by providing sufficient space, appropriate facilities as well as the company of the animal's own kind
- **the need to be protected from suffering, injury and disease**. Animals should be protected from fear and distress by providing conditions which avoid mental suffering. Problems should be diagnosed quickly and appropriate treatment should be provided for sick or injured animals. Where necessary this treatment should be by a veterinary surgeon.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

EasTec UK Ltd ensures that where live animals form part of any training, qualification or assessment activities then the following principles will apply:

- Ensure instructors/assessors are appropriately trained and skills in delivering provision with live animals
- Risk assessments are carried out

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- Ensure the welfare of the animal is prioritised creating a good quality environment for the animals and appropriate food
- The actions of the training or assessment should not have any adverse effects on the behaviour of the animal
- There should be no cruel or abusive practices
- No animal will ever be forced or encouraged to do something against its will
- Learners are encouraged never to touch the animals except where given specific guidance and permission
- In cases where learners will be working hands-on with the animal(s), full supervision, guidance and training must be given. The learner must have demonstrated that they are capable of performing necessary tasks with care and competence before commencing training or assessment with animals
- Unauthorised or improper interaction with animals will not be tolerated
- Learner numbers are monitored and capped if necessary, to ensure that animal(s) are not overwhelmed
- Ensure learners, instructors, assessors, examiners, verifiers and quality assurers are fully aware of EasTec UK Ltd policy and principles
- All supporting materials reflect the policy principles

4. LEGISLATION

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (which applies in England and Wales), the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 contain provisions to safeguard the welfare of animals.

A person with responsibility for an animal may commit an offence if an act, or failure to act, causes an animal to suffer unnecessarily. If a person does not provide for an animal's welfare needs, they can be banned from owning animals, fined and/or sent to prison.

For further advice about how the legislation applies across the UK can be found at:

- The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (applies in England and Wales) and associated advice from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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- The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and associated guidance notes produced by the Scottish Executive
- The Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 and Codes of Practice from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).
- The British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Association (AWF) leaflet 'what makes my pet happy' aims to help pet owners meet their duty of care responsibilities.

Other legislation and codes of practice – this list is not exhaustive

- Poultry welfare off the farm
- Live transport: welfare regulations
- Livestock at farm shows and markets: welfare regulations
- Animal welfare in severe weather
- Animal welfare legislation: protecting pets
- Codes of recommendations and animal welfare guides for laying hens, broiler (meat) chickens, ducks and turkeys
- Cattle code of recommendations and animal welfare guide (beef cattle and dairy cows)
- Pigs code of recommendations and animal welfare guide (including breeding sows)
- Specific sheep and goats codes of recommendations and animal welfare guides (including milk sheep)
- Deer code of recommendations and animal welfare guide (farmed deer only)
- Rabbits code of recommendations and animal welfare guide (farmed rabbits only)
- Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996

MONITORING

The monitoring of this policy will be through quality audits, instructors, assessors, examiners, verifiers, quality assurers and learner's feedback.