

# **CHING FARM GUIDELINES & PRECAUTIONS**

*Ching Farm Rescue & Sanctuary* is first and foremost intended to be a peaceful and happy place for all animals who live here. This is their refuge from a world that didn't respect and honor them. They're free to roam the property at will, making it imperative that we have rules in place to keep volunteers, visitors, and the animals themselves safe at all times. This document will outline each rule in detail. For questions or concerns, reach out to [hello@chingsanctuary.org](mailto:hello@chingsanctuary.org).

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**IMPORTANT:** We communicate changes to our farm feeding routine, housing, health issues, new arrivals, etc. through our private “*Ching Sanctuary Volunteers*” page on Facebook. It's mandatory that you keep up with these changes by checking this page every 1-2 days, and acknowledge that you've read and understand by leaving a comment. This ensures the needs of our animals are always being met. Facebook is preferred, but in the event you don't have an account, we'll send update emails as well.

## ***1. FARM GUIDELINES***

### **— Close & latch all gates or doors behind you**

This is one of the most important rules at the farm. You're expected to *always* close gates behind you as you walk the grounds, and make sure that any visible latches or carabiners are reattached securely. Animals who are separated or penned up are kept that way for very specific reasons.

### **— We've never heard a stupid question**

In fact, we don't think there's such a thing! We never want you to assume when it comes to the animals on our farm. If you don't understand something, or if you want to know why something's done a certain way, don't be afraid to let us know.

— **Don't disrespect the animals**

We have a zero tolerance policy toward any and all demeaning comments to, or about, any animal (whether that animal is currently living at the sanctuary or elsewhere). This includes "meat jokes," calling an animal by a food name, and/or making reference to carnivorous food products.

— **Don't be a bully & if you see something, say something**

Antagonizing (i.e. chasing, poking, grabbing, kicking) or manhandling, of any kind, with any animal on the property for any reason will not be tolerated. If you see someone doing this, or if you see an animal in any other form of distress, please tell someone right away.

— **Be on the lookout for things that could hurt the animals**

String, nails, rope, pieces of metal, and plastic are all things that, if ingested by the animals, will kill or seriously injure them. If you come across any of these items in the yard or pastures, pick them up and put them in the dumpster located at front of the property.

— **Don't touch the horns of goats, sheep, and cattle**

Never touch or pet the head or horns of the sheep, goats, or cattle at the sanctuary. Instinctually, goats and sheep use their horns to show their dominance over another animal. Touching or petting this area can be very dangerous as it can make them ram you or others. The cattle are very large and powerful and for the safety of everyone involved, please avoid their horns too.

— **Ask before giving treats to animals**

Treats or snacks for the animals aren't allowed unless prior permission is given by Faith Ching.

— **No outside pets allowed**

We ask that you avoid bringing your dog or any other pet along with you to the farm. It takes our residents a long time to get used to new animals, and we don't want them chased or harmed.

— **Don't bring or drop off new rescues**

We operate at capacity almost continuously throughout the year, and we accommodate as many animals as we can. For this reason, please avoid bringing in or dropping off new animals.

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## ***2. PRECAUTIONS AROUND THE ANIMALS***

Animals here at *Ching Farm Rescue & Sanctuary* come from many different backgrounds, and it's very possible they're actually afraid of you. Some are curious and will approach you, while others may not seek your attention. We ask that you only interact with our animals on their terms—for your safety, and theirs. Below we'll outline some tips for interacting with each species of animal we have on the farm.

— **Pigs**

The eyesight of a pig is generally very poor. When approaching a potbellied pig, kneel down to their level and extend your flat hand for them to sniff. Keep your hand below their nose and not above their head, just to be sure they don't think you might strike them. Take the time to let them

smell your hand, and when it feels right, you can scratch them or rub them on their side. Lower your energy and talk softly to them. Believe it or not, they actually *love* belly rubs. Many pigs will flop right over onto their side to give you access to their belly. When they're afraid of someone, they'll sometimes bark or run. In nature, they're a prey animal, and their only defense is to run away.

Our large pigs weigh close to 1,000 pounds and are as sweet as pie. However, because they're *very* big, you'll want to avoid being in their way if they try to get up or move positions quickly. For this reason, it's best to stand or sit to their side rather than their front. You should only approach them when they're out of their huts, to avoid making them feel trapped.

#### — **Emus**

Our male emu, Lelu, is very curious and may follow you. He's not mean, but he's been known to peck at shiny objects you may have on your person (such as a hair tie, a ring, or a piercing). If you want him to stop following you, turn around and try to pet him; he doesn't like being touched so he'll run away. This generally applies to the other emus on the farm as well; however, especially during mating season, you'll find that some emus will lie down and let you pet them.

#### — **Horses (Large)**

Horses weigh between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds. This must be kept in mind when navigating around them, and you should always be aware of where your feet are. Sturdy shoes or boots should be worn around them, if possible. If you end up behind a horse, you should try to stay at least 6 feet behind (in case it feels threatened and decides to kick). If quarters are tight and you have no choice but to walk behind on, gently place your hand on their rump as to not startle

them. This will let them know you're there before moving behind them. You should also avoid putting your face in close proximity to theirs in case they were to raise their head up quickly.

Just remember that they are very big, and you are responsible for keeping track of where you are in relation to them, because they probably won't.

#### — **Miniature Horses & Donkeys**

Our miniature horses and donkeys love attention and will compete for your affection. Burt, the mini-donkey, can be nippy sometimes, so use caution. You should keep your hand flat when offering treats; otherwise, keep hands away from his mouth. Even though they significantly less than a full size horse (only 200-300 pounds or so), you should still be aware of where your feet are at all times and wear sturdy shoes when you're around them.

#### — **Cows & Steers**

All of our cows and steers are friendly (not aggressive), but are very large. Due to their size, and the size of their horns, extra caution needs to be observed when you're around them.

#### — **Goats & Sheep**

You'll find out quickly that many goats are friendly and curious. As stated above in our Farm Guidelines section, you should never handle their horns. This encourages them to use them, which can be dangerous not only to visitors and volunteers, but to other animals on the farm as well. If you need to move them away from you, push them by the neck, or call a representative of the farm over to help you.

Sometimes they'll want to chew your clothes or lick your skin—hands, legs, and arms. You're really just a human salt-lick in the summer. If you have small children with you, keep this in mind so they don't feel as though they're being attacked.

#### — **Chickens, Turkeys, & Domestic Geese**

We have a couple of chickens who will let you pick them up, but unless you have existing knowledge of who these are, it's not recommended. When our turkeys strut back and forth with their feathers fluffed up, they're showing off for you! Tell them how beautiful they are! And finally, most of our geese prefer to be left alone. You'll find that, as a group, they make a lot of noise (honking, and sometimes hissing) when they're irritated by something in the area. You should not try to pet them, and walk through the space they occupy mindfully.

#### — **Dogs**

Midge (Corgie/Heeler mix) and Lexie (Border Collie Mix) are friendly, but will sometimes bark or jump up on you. Don't encourage this, but feel free to give them loves. Children should be supervised, and never put fingers or little hands near their mouths.