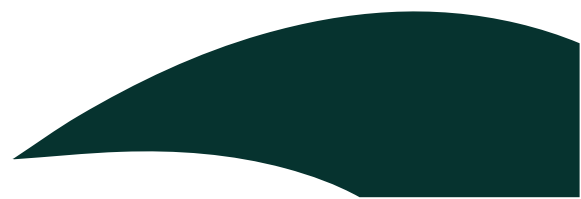


Abbey Group Animal Welfare Policy



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Introduction

The Abbey Group is committed to the ethical and responsible treatment of all animals, both domestic and wild. We recognise our role in protecting animal welfare and ensuring that our activities contribute to conservation efforts, responsible tourism, and humane treatment. This policy outlines our commitment to animal welfare and establishes best practices for all interactions involving animals.

Legal Framework

Our policy aligns with national and international animal welfare legislation and guidelines including:

Ireland:

- Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013
- Wildlife Acts 1976–2023
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011–2021
- Veterinary Ireland Policy Document on Captive Wild Animals

UK:

- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- Core Fundamental Standard of Practice for Captive Wild Animals

International:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List

Our Commitments

- We commit to ensuring that we as well as all service provider and sites visited are aware of and comply with existing local, national, and international regulations and guidelines, as outlined previously, concerning wildlife interaction and animal welfare



We maintain open communication with our service providers and conduct continuous training for guides to ensure compliance with our Animal Welfare Policy.

- Direct interactions with wildlife, particularly feeding, are not allowed unless specifically sanctioned by internationally accepted standards. We communicate our wildlife interaction guidelines clearly to guides and clients and seek independent expert advice when necessary, ensuring a consistent and informed approach to wildlife interactions.
- Where fishing or harvesting is part of our activities, we pledge to operate in compliance with relevant laws and regulations, following a scientifically based, properly managed, and strictly enforced approach to conservation.
- Visitors and guides will be informed of regulations concerning wildlife harvesting, consumption, and trade, and educated on the importance of avoiding illegal products derived from threatened species.

We share such information through various channels such as in pre-arrival communication with clients and tour guides, on our website, through the Guide App and in guide training sessions, to educate visitors about our wildlife practices, ensuring a responsible and informed experience.

- We prioritise ethical wildlife viewing experiences that minimise disturbance to natural behaviours and habitats and follow relevant legislation and guidelines.

We equip our staff, guides and guests with training on identifying and reporting disturbances.

- We commit to not acquiring, breeding, or keeping captive any species of wild animals as part of our operation. We are aware of relevant laws and regulations concerning captive wildlife and animal welfare in general. Tourism activities involving captive wildlife must adhere to the relevant laws and guidelines.
- We ensure that the housing, care, and handling of all wild and domestic animals meets the highest standards of animal welfare including:
 - Animals must be kept in a suitable and well-maintained environment, have access to adequate food, water, shelter, and being able to exhibit normal behavioural pattern.
 - Social animals should be housed with compatible companions of their species.
 - Animals must not be overworked, overloaded, or subjected to unnecessary suffering or cruel treatment.



- Animal handlers must be trained in humane treatment and ensure animals are not subjected to undue stress or disrespect.
- Animals must have access to veterinary care, receive routine veterinary care and assessments to ensure their welfare.
- Animals must be procured legally and the necessary documentation in place.
- Suppliers should provide clarity around visitor safe proximity to animals for the wellbeing of the animal and the spectator

Compliance and Monitoring

The Abbey Group is dedicated to promoting animal welfare through responsible tourism, ethical partnerships, and education. We urge all employees, partners, and visitors to uphold these standards and contribute to the protection and well-being of animals in Ireland and the UK.

The Abbey Group reserves the right to inspect the environment in which animals are kept when part of a visitor experience which is procured by the group.

The Abbey group reserves the right to cancel bookings and withdraw from contractual agreements if the above listed conditions in animal welfare are not being met.

As part of the Abbey group's responsible animal welfare commitment, we will endeavour to visit any facility involving animals as part of our procurement process. This is defined as a visitor attraction or experience in which animals are housed as part of the visitor experience or are themselves part of the experience (traditional horse drawn vehicles for example).

This Animal Welfare Policy has been reviewed and approved by:



Darren Byrne, CEO, 11.02.25





Sarah Muir, Sustainability Co-ordinator - Abbey UK, 11.02.25



Laura Stelling, Sustainability Co-ordinator - Abbey Ireland, 11.02.25



Haryanna Alencar, Sustainability Co-ordinator - Moloney & Kelly, 11.02.25

