



## **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**

### **Animal Husbandry**

As part of the school tour program, Farmer Seamus would like to invite groups to accompany him as he does his morning rounds.

An array of farm animals live at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, donkeys, sheep, deer, goats, ducks, and cows, amongst them. Ranging from our gentle old Falabella horse called "Frank", the world's smallest breed of horse, to our adopted rescue donkeys Millie & Tillie, right up to our Irish Red deer stag called Cormac, a direct descendant of the largest animal to ever roam Ireland. During the course of the year you will see cute and playful lambs, calves, kids, and piglets.

### **How It Works**

This will begin inside the door of the admissions at the pygmy goat paddock, here Seamus will give a few brief facts about the animal and let children pet the pygmy goat kid.

They will then move along to the haggard, where the children will help Seamus to gather the eggs from the coops, again Seamus will give some brief information about the different breeds of hens which we have.

While in the haggard Seamus will also show them our pigs.

Seamus will then ask for the children's assistance in the big task of the morning to help with the feeding of our calves, lambs, and tribe of kids.

Seamus will then bring the group to see the wolfhounds and give them the opportunity to have their photo taken with them.

After this Seamus will move through the park speaking about general wildlife which lives in the hedgerows around the park, and calling to the individual paddocks showing the children the lambs, the goats, the Connemara pony, the deer, and the donkeys.

Seamus will give a few brief facts about each of the animals.

The majority of the animals which the children will encounter along the way are native and indeed rare Irish breeds, we believe in showcasing our heritage and preserving these endangered breeds for future generations.

### **Bunratty Animal Conservation**

We are also very proud to showcase these animals in their natural environment, allowing to happily graze in the paddocks around the Folk park.

We are fully compliant with all state bodies who govern the keeping of animals, and we also operate according to the Five Freedoms, these are internationally recognized as best practice standards when keeping animals. These are listed below,

The welfare of an animal includes its physical and mental state and we consider that good animal welfare implies both fitness and a sense of well-being.



1. **Freedom from hunger and thirst:** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. **Freedom from discomfort:** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. **Freedom from pain, injury or disease:** by prevention through rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Freedom to express normal behaviour:** by providing sufficient space and proper facilities.
5. **Freedom from fear and distress:** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering