

Caring for companion animals

At POKE College, we have a variety of companion animals. These include ponies, donkeys, goats, pigs, chicken, rabbits and rodents, such as guinea pigs, rats, hamsters, gerbils and mice. Some of the animals are landrace breeds, such as our Finngoats and our landrace chickens.

Caring for these animals involves lots of practical work, which is always fun! We also learn various procedures, such as hoof care, bathing, dog trimming and massaging and any necessary injections. If any of our animals have any more serious problems, however, we have a vet located next door so our animals can get immediate treatment.

Our companion animals are fed a very healthy diet of fresh fruit, vegetables and grains, part of which we produce ourselves. Old or unbought food that our local supermarkets would otherwise throw away makes up the rest of our animal feed. We don't tend to use commercial pellets.

We like to take our companion animals outside a lot, either to roam in our paddocks and enclosures or to take them out for a walk on a lead. We also actively use them in our Green Care activities, positively reinforcing a natural relationship between human and animal, in a way that both parties benefit.

