

## **Sustainability Policy**

Shropshire Farm Vets Ltd commitment to sustainability is integral to our mission and operations, driving us to minimize our environmental footprint while maximizing social and economic benefits. We are dedicated to implementing and continuously improving practices that promote resource efficiency, reduce waste, and support the well-being of our employees, clients, and the broader community. Through innovation, responsibility and collaboration, we strive to create a sustainable future.

Following our Carbon Calculator assessment, we identified fuel and energy as our main environmental impacts and to address these, we've split our efforts into two sections: fleet and office.

### **Fleet Management**

#### **1. Visit Efficiency:**

- Aim to schedule visits and medicines deliveries geographically.
- Aim to limit un-necessary journeys.

#### **2. Trains and Car Sharing:**

- When possible, trains are used for attending external training sessions or meetings.
- Actively encourage car sharing when there is opportunity to do so.

#### **3. Vehicle Monitoring:**

- All fleet vehicles are fitted with trackers in order to avoid congestion.

#### **4. Vehicle Maintenance:**

- All fleet vehicles are well maintained and serviced regularly.
- On site cold pressure washer available.
- On site air compressor available.

#### **5. Fleet Upgrade:**

- Transition to more fuel-efficient vehicles.

### **Office Energy Use**

#### **1. Heating and Lighting:**

- Active use of heater timers.
- Automatic lights in some lesser-used areas.
- Encourage turning off lights in unoccupied spaces.

#### **2. Energy Conservation:**

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- All un-necessary electronic equipment such as computers are turned off after use or at the end of each day.
- Where possible, natural light is utilised through windows and skylights.
- Practice appliances such as fridges and water coolers are kept to a minimum.
- The dishwasher is only run when full to capacity.

### **3. Drying Facilities:**

- All waterproofs are air dried.

## **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

### **1. Medicine Management:**

- Effective management of ordering, monitoring, selling and short expiry medicines.
- Use of recycled cardboard boxes and paper bags for medication deliveries.

### **2. Paper Use:**

- When possible, electronic communications are used.
- When needed, documents are print double-sided.
- Use of QR codes where possible.
- Environmental warnings are used in email signatures.

### **3. Recycling:**

- Aim to recycle as much as possible using separate recyclable bins (paper, plastic, cans, glass).
- Uniforms reused and recycled if appropriate.

### **4. Efficient Postage:**

- Consolidated lab reports and payment receipts into monthly invoices.
- Electronic payments are encouraged.

### **5. Resource Utilization:**

- Aim to fill clinical waste bags and Doop containers to full capacity.
- Aim to maximise sharing of any suitable equipment.
- Aim to make bulk order of any supplies.

### **6. Repair and Reuse:**

- Aim to repair as much equipment as is viable.

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### **Future Plans**

- Continue upgrading the fleet to more fuel efficient vehicles.
- Effective sustainability training of new employees.
- Aim to further reduce paper use with electronic invoicing.
- Effectively manage waste collections.
- Increase outdoor plants to create a bee-friendly environment.
- Aim to instal more automatic lights in lesser-used areas.
- Aim to reduce food waste to a minimum.

Our policy reflects our commitment to the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle and repair, as we aim for a sustainable future.