

Do you ever walk on a footpath through a field of animals? Do you ever think how the animals feel about it? Even though they may be bigger than you, animals like cows, sheep and horses can find humans very frightening.



Respect the animals

- Keep quiet and don't shout. Please don't try to make an animal noise (like a 'moo') at them - they find this very worrying
- Walk and don't run and **never** chase animals
- Always stick to the footpath
- Leave gates as you find them. Close gates behind you to stop animals escaping



Protect yourself & the animals

- Keep dogs on leads
- Don't drop litter that animals could choke on if they ate it
- Don't **ever** feed the animals – you can make them very ill or even kill them



Enjoy

- The quieter you are, the more wildlife you will see on your walk – enjoy it!



The Fright

In 2019 our cows were scared by humans who wandered off the footpath in the field. We don't know exactly what happened, but every time the cows heard a human shouting, they ran for their lives, jumping through gates, hedges and fences to try to escape, shaking in terror.



These animals are our family – just like peoples' dogs are their family. They have their own personalities, friends, likes and dislikes. It made us very sad that our cows were so scared. We had to work with them every day for 9 months to get them to trust us again.

Two of them, Steve and May (pictured) are still learning to trust other humans again.



But why are there animals in fields with footpaths?

Our farm is a wildlife reserve and our cows and ponies conservation-graze the land. By eating the grass, they allow space for wildflowers to grow, with their dung providing food for dung beetles.

If you want to learn more about how our cows help us to look after our farm, visit us at The Bug Farm and follow Barney's story at @MuchLovedCalf.