

Working Animals

As part of our commitment to advancing sustainable tourism, we encourage our tourism partners to improve their sustainability performance by providing them with the guidance below.

- ✓ Ensure applicable legal **permits & permission** to access activity area are in place
- ✓ Ensure **insurance** for participants and team is in place
- ✓ Identify **health & safety** risks, implement management systems, and provide appropriate safety equipment
- ✓ Ensure enough team members are available in case of **emergency**
- ✓ Monitor activity area conditions (including weather) in advance & during the activity
- ✓ Be familiar with activity area, and ensure that **navigation and communication** tools are in good working order
- ✓ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and purchasing
- ✓ Avoid single use & disposable items, pack out what you take in, and pick up **rubbish** found along the way
- ✓ Use **eco-friendly products**, e.g., for cleaning purposes
- ✓ Be **waterwise** and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✓ Minimise **energy** used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- ✓ Provide **information in advance** about your sustainability actions, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring with
- ✓ Provide best practice in **animal welfare** – “Five Freedoms” – freedom from hunger & thirst, discomfort, pain / injury / disease, fear / distress, and freedom to express normal behaviour
- ✓ Ensure **caretakers** are suitably equipped, trained, and experienced to provide best practice care
- ✓ Monitor **physical health** of animals, e.g., check for lameness / similar, and provide veterinary advice / care as needed
- ✓ Do not require **young, pregnant, nursing, injured, ill, distressed, or elderly animals** to pull / carry loads nor be ridden
- ✓ Ensure **equipment**, e.g., harness, fits animal well and does not cause distress or injury
- ✓ Ensure work done by animal does not exceed its physical capacity
- ✓ Manage **group size** to minimise impacts and ensure a safe guide : participant ratio
- ✓ Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- ✓ **Brief participants**, pre-departure, about do’s and don’ts, safety, what to expect, hazards to be aware of, logistical considerations, applicable conduct, not disturbing / removing flora and fauna, and rubbish collection and disposal
- ✓ In sensitive environments, clean animal’s hooves, coat and equipment before activity starts, and provide weed-free feed for preceding 48 hours to **prevent spread of invasive species**
- ✓ Cross properties at **gates / stiles**, and leave them behind as you found them
- ✓ Cross **watercourses** at designated points or available bridges, otherwise at firm / stony sections to avoid erosion, and at 90° to bank / shore



Working Animals (continued...)

- ✓ **Rest animals** periodically throughout the workday, removing equipment during rest periods
- ✓ Avoid working an animal during **hottest** part of the day (in hot climates)
- ✓ Do not allow animals to **roam freely** during rest stops
- ✓ Do not **tether** animals for long periods, nor in a way that is unnecessarily restrictive; animal must be able to walk, lay down, stand up, and reach food, water, and shade
- ✓ Water animals at **designated water points**, where possible
- ✓ Do not allow animals to **graze** on natural vegetation in the activity area
- ✓ **Share information** about local nature & culture, as well as social development / conservation projects that participants may want to support
- ✓ Repair and compensate for any **damage** caused to the activity area
- ✓ Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects

