Animals

At All8 Sensory Support, the presence of animals such as dogs or guinea pigs may be offered as part of our wider therapeutic and sensory provision. However, animals are not the primary focus of our sessions and may not be present at all times.

Please note that while horses are present at Wick Yard, All8 Sensory Support does **not** work with horses, and they do **not** form part of our sessions.

We maintain a duty of care to both the children and the animals involved. Animal participation is carefully considered based on the wellbeing of the animal, the needs of the child, and the suitability of the session environment. If All8 Sensory Support determines that the presence of an animal is not appropriate for a particular session, the animal will not be included.

By signing this form, parents and guardians acknowledge that the presence of animals is optional, and is subject to professional discretion.

Consent for Presence of Support Dog During Sessions

I give permission for my child to attend sessions where a dog may be present as part of the alternative education provision. I understand that the dog will be supervised at all times and integrated into the learning environment to support emotional wellbeing, engagement, and therapeutic outcomes. The dog is under-going training and is regularly risk assessed. I acknowledge that reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure safety and hygiene, and I confirm that my child does not have any known allergies or phobias related to dogs that would prevent their participation.

Consent for Presence and Handling of Guinea Pigs During Sessions

I give permission for my child to attend sessions where guinea pigs may be present as part of the alternative education provision. These animals are temperament-assessed and handled in accordance with welfare and hygiene standards. Their presence is intended to support emotional regulation, sensory engagement, and therapeutic outcomes.

Opportunities for gentle handling or interaction will be offered under close supervision and adapted to suit individual sensory profiles, preferences, and needs. All interactions will be optional and guided by staff.

I confirm that I have informed the provider of any known allergies, phobias, or other concerns related to guinea pigs or small animals that may affect my child's participation. I understand that I can update this information at any time during the course of the program.

Consent for Seasonal Interaction with Sheep

At certain times of the year, it may be possible for children to interact with sheep as part of the All8 Sensory Support program. These interactions are carefully supervised, optional, and designed to enrich sensory and emotional experiences.

I understand that participation in sheep interactions is voluntary and subject to suitability based on my child's individual needs and the professional discretion of All8 Sensory Support staff.

I confirm that I have informed the provider of any allergies, phobias, or concerns related to sheep or farm animals that may affect my child's participation. I understand I may update this information at any time during the program.

Presence of Animals Consent Summary

Please indicate your consent preferences for each type of animal interaction offered by All8 Sensory Support:

- **Support Dog Presence** ☐ I consent ☐ I do not consent
- **Guinea Pig Presence and Handling** ☐ I consent ☐ I do not consent
- **Seasonal Interaction with Sheep** ☐ I consent ☐ I do not consent

I acknowledge that animal-assisted support is optional, may vary from session to session, and is subject to the professional discretion of All8 Sensory Support. I understand that animals are not the primary focus of the provision, and that horses present at Wick Yard are not part of the sessions. I confirm that I have informed the provider of any relevant allergies, phobias, or concerns, and understand I may update this information at any time.

Assumption of Risk: I understand that while All8 Sensory Support takes all reasonable measures to ensure safety and wellbeing, interaction with animals carries inherent risks, including but not limited to scratches, bites, allergic reactions, or unpredictable animal behaviour. By consenting to animal interaction, I voluntarily assume these risks on behalf of my child and release All8 Sensory Support and its staff from liability related to such risks, provided that appropriate care and supervision are maintained.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____