



A VISIT TO EDGAR'S MISSION



Today I'm going to visit Edgar's Mission, a farmed animal sanctuary in Lancefield, 90 kilometres from Melbourne's CBD.

Over 400 animals call Edgar's Mission home. On my visit, I may meet chickens, sheep, goats, cows, pigs, cats ... and two cheeky donkeys!

Each of the animals has their own unique name, story and personality ... just like me.





Edgar's Mission is a sanctuary, which is a safe place for animals who have been rescued. The animals who live there may have come from sad or scary situations and suffered an injury, illness or disability that makes them vulnerable.

The people who work at Edgar's Mission do their very best to give each of the animals the chance of a happy, healthy and long life.

Here's what I can expect during my visit to Edgar's Mission...



1. Preparing for the Visit

Before I go, I will make sure to wear comfortable clothes and shoes. I will be doing a lot of walking!

The sanctuary might be a little muddy or dusty, so it's a good idea to wear old clothes that can get dirty.

I should also remember to bring a water bottle to stay hydrated and put on sunscreen and a hat to keep my skin safe from the sun.

2. Arriving at the Sanctuary



When I arrive at Edgar's Mission, my adult will drive in through the gates and park the car then we will step in the biosecurity bath at the pedestrian gate. This is full of a solution that cleans and sanitises my shoes so I don't bring in any bad germs that might make the animals sick.



I will walk up the long, curving driveway until I reach a big red building called the Welcome Barn. I might see some animals on the way!



3. Meeting the Humans

When I arrive at the Welcome Barn, my tour guide (Daniel or Emma) will be there to greet me. They will say hello, tick my name off a list and tell me where the toilets are. There may be other people also waiting for a tour. I can wait inside the Welcome Barn, where there are lots of photographs to look at and a space for kids to play and draw. I can also wait outside ... and see which animals I can spot!



4. Meeting the Animals



Edgar's Mission is home to over 400 animals, and so I will definitely meet a few! Each animal has its own area but some of them are known as “happy wanderers”. They're animals who can roam freely during the day then sleep in the barn at night to keep them safe and warm. Some animals may make me feel a bit nervous, and that's okay. I may have never seen or interacted with them before. I don't have to get close to those animals or to go into spaces with them if I don't feel comfortable. I can watch and enjoy them from a distance.

These are some of the happy wanderers I might meet at Edgar's Mission.



Tim Tam



Preena



Hamish and Andy



Steady Eddie

5. Respecting the Animals

As many of the animals who live at Edgar's Mission have had sad or scary starts in life, it's important to be kind and gentle with them. My tour guide will talk about how to interact respectfully with the animals. I will use a calm voice and approach them slowly to avoid startling them. I might need to crouch down to their level. I won't shout or yell at the animals. I won't chase after them. I will watch their behaviour. If an animal moves away from me, that's their way of saying they don't want to be patted and they need some space. I will respect that need. Sometimes I feel like that too.





6. Feeding the Chickens

I will have the opportunity to feed the chickens who live in Chicken Village. My tour guide will pour some bird seed into my hand, and then I will crouch low to feed the chickens. They love their food and will come up and peck at the food in my hand. It can be a strange and uncomfortable sensation at first, and if I don't feel comfortable, I can say no or drop the seed onto the ground. The chickens won't mind! I will only give the chickens bird seed and not slip them any treats I might have in my bag or pockets. Some foods can be toxic to birds.



7. Using my Senses

I will have the opportunity to watch how the animals at Edgar's Mission play, rest and interact with each other. My tour guide will tell stories about some of the animals and I can ask questions if I want to know more. There is so much to learn just by watching, listening and smelling.

There are lots of different sights, sounds and smells at Edgar's Mission. I might encounter loud noises, strong smells or step on animal poo. I might see animals who have injuries or disabilities that make them look or move a bit differently.

If I feel overwhelmed, I will tell my adult and we will ask for a quiet place to have a break.

8. Staying Safe

Edgar's Mission has some rules to help keep the animals — both human and non-human — safe and happy. These include not entering paddocks without a guide, not running, not feeding the animals without permission, and watching out for traffic. As the sanctuary is a big and busy place, staff use vehicles like utes and Kubotas to drive around. Sometimes the goats like to use the Kubotas too! I will listen to my tour guide and make sure I follow instructions.



9. Saying Goodbye

When it's time to leave, my tour guide will share the philosophy of Edgar's Mission to finish the tour and thank everyone for coming. Edgar's Mission's philosophy is:

"If we could live happy and healthy lives without harming others, why wouldn't we?"

I will say goodbye to the animals and thank my tour guide for the tour. There is a shop in the Welcome Barn. Maybe I can find something special in the shop to take home with me as a reminder of my visit.

On the way home, I can think and talk about all the animals I saw and learnt about. I may not have seen all the animals I wanted to today, but that's okay. I can come back and visit again!



I am excited about my visit to Edgar's Mission. I know it will be a fun and educational experience where I will learn a lot about rescued farmed animals, how they live and who they are. I wonder who I will meet ...

