The Animal Nursery's 61st Anniversary

By Leo

The Animal Nursery, owned by James Kemp, located at Expo Place, provided the opportunity for people to engage with agriculture.

James has had lots of experience with the animals and has known most of them since birth. Some have passed down from multiple generations.

The Animal Nursery was first introduced to the Ekka in 1964. It has been running for 61 years and is still delighting visitors today.

"I love watching the people who are a little bit nervous when they first come into the Animal Nursery, and once they realise that it is a very non-threatening environment, they can then start interacting with the animals and they absolutely love it, so we can see it literally go from tears, to hugs within a few minutes," said Mr Kemp.

Baby Goats in the Animal Nursery

The Animal Nursery had a wide variety of animals including piglets, lambs, baby goats, chickens and ducklings. This year, it also saw the return of the Highland Cows, and 'Goat Mountain', which showcased the animals' agility in an improved display.

According to Mr Kemp, the Animal Nursery gets just under 10,000 visitors per day on average, and on the first Sunday of the show in 2025, they had 12,000 visitors come through the gate.

While the Animal Nursery put a smile on people's faces, its main aim was to get people more involved in Agriculture.

"The purpose is basically I guess to get back to the basics, to promote agriculture, it would be a bit of an educational tool, and would be able to answer people's questions about the animals if they've got them, but mainly exposing people to agriculture, I think everybody is starting to a bit move away from it, which is a bit of a shame, because no farmers, no food," said Mr Kemp.

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