



wildheart
animal isle of wight
sanctuary

WORMERY

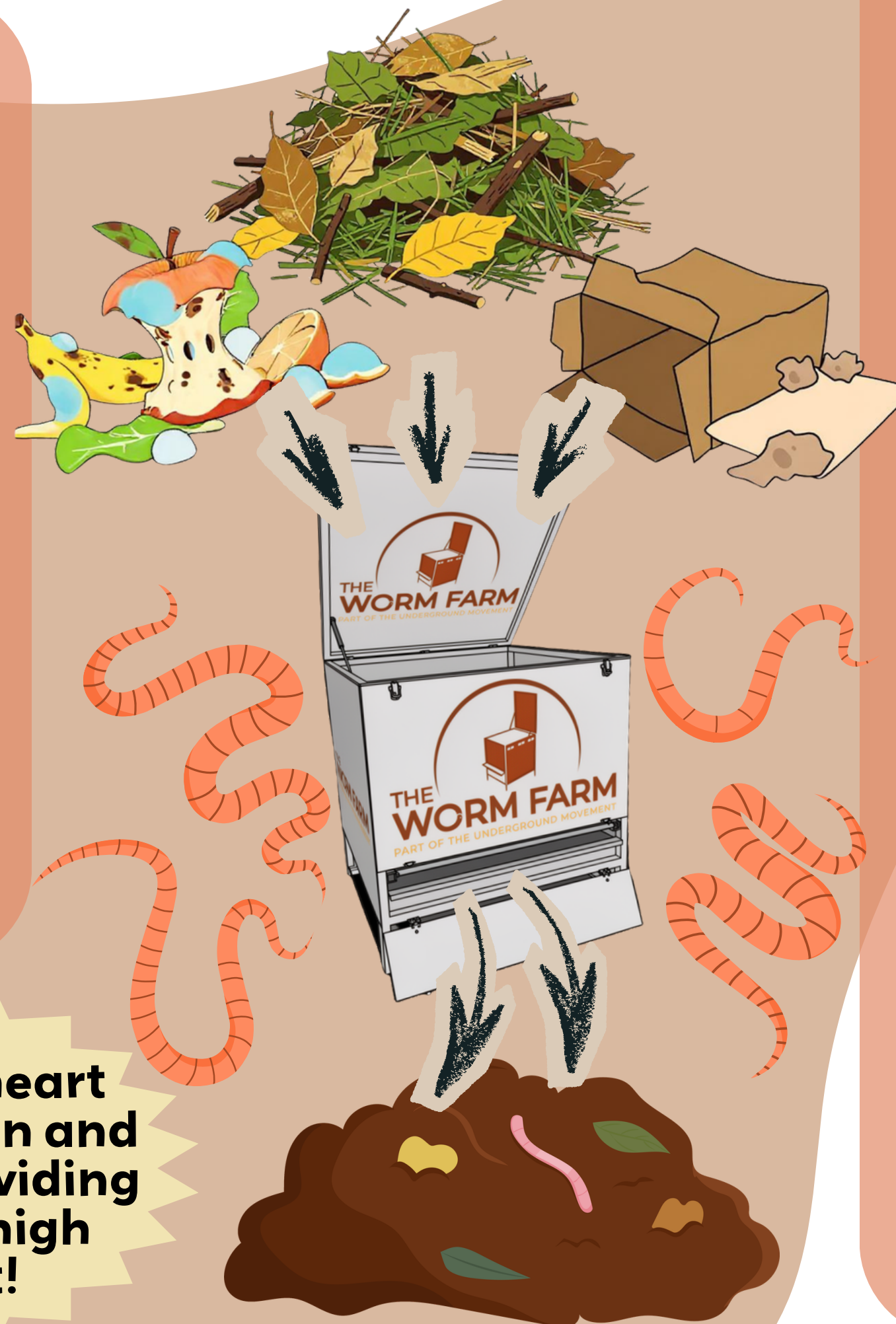
What is a wormery?

A wormery is a container that humans use to keep worms in.

It is used to quickly turn food and garden waste into compost.

The worms used for composting are different to earth worms, known as brandling, manure, red or tiger worms.

A wormery at Wildheart will reduce our garden and food waste while providing Garden Club with high quality compost!



What are worms?

Worms are invertebrates that live in soil.

There are about 34,000 different types of worm; many are so small you wouldn't be able to see them without a microscope!

The longest earthworm is the African giant earthworm, which can grow up to 6.7m (22ft) long.

Why are worms important?

Worms eat their own weight in organic waste, fallen leaves, soil and minerals and excrete their own weight in castings daily!

The little mounds you sometimes see on top of the soil are called worm castings. These are, essentially, worm poo! They are the end product of this recycling process. Worm castings enrich soil and make compost.

They don't eat living plant tissue, and so don't hurt plants.

By wriggling and burrowing, worms' movements improve soil structure through aeration. This improves the soils ability to soak up water.

Their movements also spread micro-organisms around which repairs damaged soil by increasing bioremediation.

They provide an important protein-rich source of food for other species like birds, hedgehogs and frogs.