

The Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Five Animal Welfare Needs

1 Health

Pets should be protected from disease and illness and must be treated if they become injured or ill. This might involve providing your animal with medicine when needed and taking it to see a vet if it is poorly or ill. You must also protect your animal from pain or injury.

2 Behaviour

Pets should be allowed to behave naturally for their species. This might involve taking them for a walk, letting them run, letting them dig, allowing them to fly... basically, any behaviour that would be natural for their species!

3 Companionship

A pet should have appropriate companionship. This might be keeping sociable animals together (such as rabbits or guinea pigs) or keeping solitary animals separate (such as hamsters). You must also ensure your pet has the right amount of human contact or handling depending on their species.

4 Diet

A pet must be provided with a suitable diet which meets their needs and helps them stay fit and healthy. You should only feed your pet the right food for their species and the right amount to keep their weight healthy.

5 Environment

A pet must be provided with the right type of environment that meets their needs. It must provide the right facilities for the animal to be able to hide, rest, exercise, explore and be comfortable!

