

The five welfare needs

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 requires anyone who owns or looks after an animal to provide everything that the animal needs to be happy and healthy.

These needs can be described as:



1. Food and water

Fresh, clean water at all times and food that is the right kind for them.



2. Bed and shelter

A good environment: a home with a nice safe place to rest, and some pets may need a place to climb, sun themselves, or hide.



3. Health

To be protected from pain and harm, by seeing the vet when they are feeling unwell, or to get their regular injections to keep them healthy.



4. Natural behaviour

To be able to do things that are natural for them, such as playing, walking, or sunning themselves. They may need the right kind of toys for them to chew on or scratch too.



5. Company

The right kind of company for the type of pet that they are; some pets get very lonely when left alone for too long.