

The Abecedarian (A-Z) of Animal Welfare



Animal welfare relates to the physical health and fitness of animals and their emotional state. The science of animal welfare assesses the interaction between animals and their environment to identify hazards and protective factors to safeguard animal health and well-being. It also explores our role and how we treat animals.

A

Animal sentience is the ability of animals to feel positive and negative emotions

B

Behavioural needs are highly motivated behaviours that animals must be able to perform

C

Animals need to have physical and thermal **comfort**

D

Minimising the risk of **disease** or when it occurs ensuring rapid diagnosis and treatment

E

Environmental enrichment is achieved by providing a rich physical and social environment that enables animals to express highly motivated behaviours

F

Five Freedoms and Provisions are international guidelines on animal needs

G

Good feeding, good housing, good health and good behaviour are key pillars of supporting animal welfare

H

Habituation occurs when animals learn not to react to non-harmful stimuli

I

Minimising the risk of **injury** to animals

J

The **juvenile** stage is part of behavioural development in puppies also known as the enrichment period

K

Kinship recognises the similarities between humans and animals

L

Low stress handling is a technique to reduce fear associated with handling

M

Minimising **mental suffering** in animals

N

Non-accidental injury of animals is associated with domestic abuse

O

One Welfare is the interconnection between the well-being of humans, animals and the environment

P

Caring for animals in a way that supports a **positive emotional state**

Q

Quality of life is relevant to animals and humans

R

Highly motivated behaviours that are suppressed may be **redirected** or **rebound**

S

Stereotypy is the repeated expression of the same behaviour without an obvious reason

T

The Three Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) is a framework to support the justification of animals used for scientific purposes

U

Animals must be protected from **unnecessary suffering** such as avoidable pain, injury, disease or distress

V

Veterinary behavioural medicine is new veterinary specialism that considers behaviour problems in animals

W

Welfare outcomes are animal-based measures used to assess animal welfare

X

eXtreme phenotypes can arise from selective breeding for 'appearance' and are associated with hereditary diseases and disorders

Y

Etholog**Y** is the study of animal behaviour

Z

Zoocentrism is a perspective that focuses on animals



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