



# What do animals need to be **HAPPY & HEALTHY?**

Did you know there are five main things ALL animals need to live happy, healthy lives?

It doesn't matter if it's your dog, cat, guinea pig, fish - or the birds in your garden, polar bears in the Arctic, or elephants in Africa. All animals need to have their five welfare needs met to be able to live the happiest, healthiest life possible.

**The five welfare needs sound really important! What are they?**

All animals should be able to:



## 1: Express normal behaviour

Think about natural behaviour for an animal. Do they like to run, jump, dig, or fly? Do they like to play with toys?


Imagine a bird that couldn't fly - it wouldn't be a happy bird, and it could suffer. What about a rabbit that couldn't jump and run? Think about rabbits in the wild - they run for miles and can jump as high as they like. If you have a rabbit at home, can your bunny do that?



## 2: Have company if they enjoy having friends, or be left alone if that makes them happier!

Did you know that lots of animals love to live with other animals? BUT - some animals are known as solitary - that means they prefer to live alone.





# What do animals need to be **HAPPY & HEALTHY?**

## 3: Eat a healthy diet

Just like us, animals need the right food, in the right amount, to stay healthy - and of course, constant access to fresh, clean water.

You couldn't eat just sweets all day (even if you really wanted to!) - it's important that you eat a balanced diet and that includes important things like vegetables. Animals are no different!



## 4: Live in a suitable environment

All animals need a suitable place to call home. This needs to be somewhere they feel safe and where they're sheltered from the weather. They also need somewhere to go to the toilet and a comfy place to sleep!



## 5: Have all their health needs taken care of

This means protecting them from any pain or suffering. With our pets at home, this can include things like making sure they have vaccinations to protect them from nasty diseases, and flea and worm treatments to protect them from pesky parasites that can make them poorly!

### TRY THIS!

Do you have a pet at home? Can you write down all the different ways you think you meet their five welfare needs?