



## What are the 5 welfare needs of animals?

There are 5 categories of things our pets need to stay happy and healthy. Our pets Daisy the cat, Oakley the dog and Thumper the rabbit all need taking care of; can you name the 5 groups of things they need? Are they the same or different for the different animals?

Answers below.

### A suitable diet

Food and water that's appropriate for their health and species.

Daisy - eats a mainly meat/fish based-diet. Should be offered dry food for dental health.

Oakley - commercial dog foods offer balanced diets, dry foods support dental health.

Thumper - hay, growing grass, fresh fruits and veg, rabbit pellets

All - clean, fresh drinking water

### Can exhibit normal behaviour patterns

The chance to run, play, snuffle or hide; whatever that animal naturally wants to do!

Daisy - space to run, cat toys, people to play with her, or she may prefer to be left alone.

Oakley - regular walks, toys, kongs/snuffle toys/chasing you or other dogs around.

Thumper - a run which allows at least 3 hops in a row, suitable enrichment changed regularly.

### A suitable environment

Somewhere safe and comfortable for them to live and sleep.

Daisy - a warm, safe, dry area which may be a cat bed/box/blanket they can access any time. Constant access to a cat flap to get outside or a clean litter tray.

Oakley - a warm, safe, dry area which may be a dog bed/crate/other suitable area which they can access anytime. Regular access to an outside area for toileting.

**Thumper** – a large enclosure with plenty of height; a warm, dry hutch section, a run section, clean straw for bedding material.

## **Housing with or without other animals**

They may prefer company of their own kind, or humans, or they may prefer to live alone.

**Daisy** – cats are usually solitary, meaning they prefer to be the only cat in the household. The exception may be if a pair have been bonded since kittens.

**Oakley** – some dogs enjoy other dogs' company, others prefer only human company. Dogs should not be left alone for long periods.

**Thumper** – rabbits should always be housed with other rabbits, never alone, but remember to neuter!

## **Protection from suffering, disease and injury**

Seeing a vet if they are ill or injured, as well as preventative veterinary care such as check-ups, flea and worming treatment and vaccinations.