

Animal Care & Welfare

People primarily raise and keep animals for human use or benefit, such as dogs and cats for companionship, cattle and sheep for food or clothing and horses for work or recreation. Animal owners are legally and ethically responsible for the care of their animals. But what does – and should – this care involve? Most people would immediately say that animals need adequate water, food and shelter. Some might add that animals must be protected from any unnecessary discomfort, pain or stress.

Animal welfare can be understood by considering a number of different ideas:

- Animal welfare involves an animal's physical health or its fitness.
- Some people believe that an animal's emotional state is equally important and refers to how the animal feels, including fear, anxiety, pain or discomfort, as well as its ability to act "naturally" or fulfil its natural needs.

- Animal welfare can also involve ensuring that an animal's needs are met, including those that are essential for survival, those that help avoid injury or diseases and those that provide a comfortable existence.
- A framework called the *Five Freedoms* from the United Kingdom is internationally recognized as a checklist or guidelines that identify what basic and acceptable levels of care should include.

What elements of care do you think should be considered part of an animal's basic care? Start with the ideas in the points above – meeting needs that are essential for survival, meeting needs that avoid injury or disease and meeting needs to provide a comfortable existence.

Use the Triple T-Chart below to make a list that describes how you, as an animal owner or care giver, should meet each of these three types of needs. If you need more space, use a Triple T-Chart, labeled with the headings below. A blank Triple T-Chart template is provided on the *Virtual Apprentice 1040* website.

Essential for Survival	Avoid Injury or Disease	Provide a Comfortable Existence

The *Five Freedoms* are listed in the sidebar box to the right. With a classmate, parent or co-worker, discuss how the *Five Freedoms* address needs that are essential for survival, needs that avoid injury or disease and the need to provide a comfortable existence.

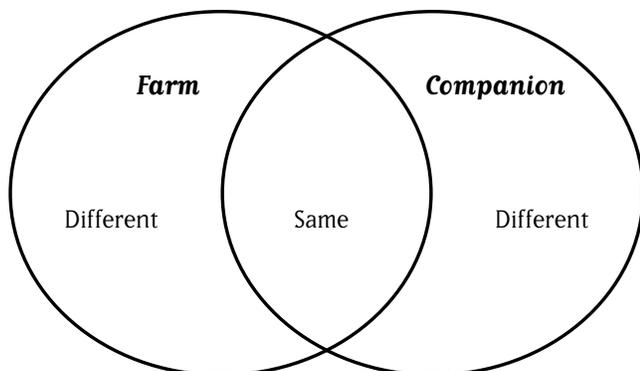


Domestic Animals

A **domesticated animal** is any animal that depends on people for food, water and shelter, including animals such as cattle, horses, sheep, chickens, goats, dogs and cats. Domestic animals are often described in two main groups:

- Farm animals
- Companion animals.

How do you think the needs of these two types of domestic animals might be different? What is the same? Use a Venn to make this comparison. Record your ideas on the Venn with bulleted points or sketches. A blank Venn template is provided on the *Virtual Apprentice 1040* website.



Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour

Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area

Freedom from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment

Freedom to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind

Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering