

Animal Welfare as part of One Health

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What is animal welfare?

- According to the Terrestrial Code, animal welfare means ‘the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.’
- Encompasses scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, legal, social, religious and political aspects.



What is sentience?

- Sentience refers to the capacity to feel and have a range of positive and negative affective experiences including pleasure and pain.
- Science has established that a wide range of species (including all vertebrates and at least some classes of invertebrates such as cephalopods and some crustacea) meet the scientific criteria to be classed as sentient.



How do we know if we have 'good welfare'?

- The Terrestrial Code emphasizes systematic scientific assessment, using measures of welfare at a point in time or over a period of time, using both the 'Five Freedoms' and the "Five Domains' Models.
- Measures may assess impaired functioning, provide information on animals' needs and positive or negative affective states, or may assess physiological and behavioural changes.
- Measures are ideally animal-based (evaluating the response of, or an effect on, an animal), but can also be resource-based (evaluating a feature of the animal's environment) or management-based (evaluating what the animal handler is doing).

Five Freedoms

First developed in 1965 by Britain's Farm Animal Welfare Council and then widely adopted.

1. Freedom from Hunger, Malnutrition and Thirst
2. Freedom from Fear and Distress
3. Freedom from Physical and Thermal Discomfort
4. Freedom from Pain, Injury, and Disease
5. Freedom to Express Normal Patterns of Behaviour

Five Domains Model – David Mellor et al

Physical and functional domains

Nutrition

Quality and availability
of food and water

Positive / Negative

Environment

Physical surroundings –
space, shelter, environmental
conditions

Positive / Negative

Health

Physical wellness, disease,
injury, fitness

Positive / Negative

Behaviour

Expressing species-specific
behaviours, interactions with
environment, other animals and
humans

Positive / Negative

Affective Experience / Mental domain

Mental State

Emotional experiences such as thirst,
hunger, comfort, discomfort, pleasure,
pain, calmness, anxiety, interest,
boredom, etc

Positive / Negative

-> Welfare Status



How do we know if we have 'good welfare'?

- The “Five Domains’ Model allows consideration of both the degree and cumulation of positive and negative experiences over an animal’s lifetime.
- It is often referred to as ensuring that animals have a ‘life worth living’ rather than simply meeting basic survival needs, as it emphasises not only the avoidance of negative experiences but also the promotion of positive ones.



Welfare and One Health

- By now you will have picked up that both ‘animal welfare’ and ‘One Health’ concepts recognize that humans, animals and the environment are interconnected and interdependent.
- There is a critical relationship between animal health and animal welfare. Animal health is a foundation piece of One Health, as you know.
- Less obvious may be the critical relationship between animal welfare and the mental wellbeing of people, from a psychological and ethical point of view, as well as the relationship with the environment.



Animal welfare and human well-being

- Our use of animals in agriculture, research, companionship, recreation, work, cultural and entertainment purposes, impacts human well-being.
- Treating animals with respect fosters empathy and compassion.
- A better environment for production animals is generally better for farmers and workers.
- Consumers are increasingly interested in welfare in terms of the social acceptability of animal use.



Welfare and Resilience & Productivity

- Improving welfare improves the efficiency, quality, marketability and overall economics of food production.
- For example, improved handling during transport and slaughter improves quality such as reducing injuries and bruising defects.
- It can also reduce costly injuries to workers.



Welfare and AMR

- By improving the management of production systems, such as reducing overcrowding and stress on animals, we can reduce disease burden, injuries and infections.
- This reduces animal and human public health risks, such as antimicrobial resistance.



Welfare and Climate change

- Higher welfare animals are more productive, less prone to disease, require less feed and land for similar productivity, generate fewer pollutants to enter water, and reduces emissions.
- Climate change also significantly impacts welfare, for example increased need for shade and shelter, increased risks with natural disasters such as flooding and fires.

Welfare and Sustainability

- **Global Animal Welfare Strategy Vision:**
“A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability”



Animal welfare and sustainability

To read more about this topic, see this vision paper:



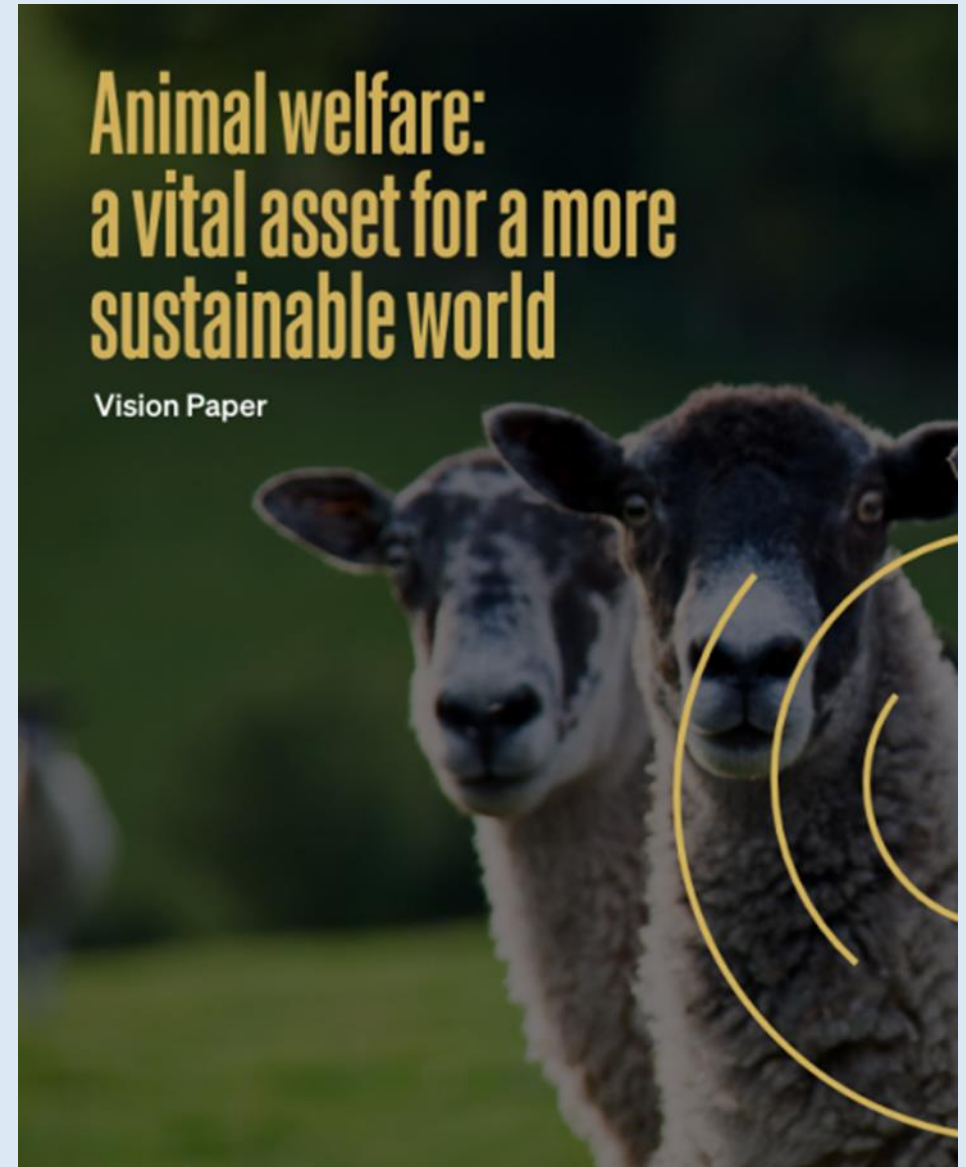
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Thank you

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