

# Five domains of animal welfare

The Five Freedoms model of animal welfare was first developed in the 1960s and has shaped the development of evidence-based animal welfare standards globally for many years. The Five Freedoms are recognized internationally and consist of: freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury or disease; freedom to express normal behavior; and freedom from fear and distress.



①

Freedom from hunger and thirst



②

Freedom from discomfort

NUTRITION

ENVIRONMENT

③

Freedom from pain,  
injury, and disease



HEALTH

⑤

Freedom from fear  
and distress



④  
Freedom to  
express normal  
behavior

BEHAVIOR

MENTAL  
STATE



How we think about animal welfare has evolved over the past several years, from solely meeting the basic needs of animals, to encouraging positive experiences and recognizing animals' emotional needs. The Five Domains Model of animal welfare was developed in New Zealand and goes beyond the Five Freedoms. The five domains are nutrition, environment, health, behavior, and mental state/experiences.