

FIVE WELFARE DOMAINS

What is the Five Domains Model?

The Five Domains Model for assessing animal welfare is designed to provide a comprehensive and systematic means to assess both negative and positive welfare impacts. In the Model, factors considered in the first four domains (nutrition, environment, health and behaviour) cause affective states which are assessed in the fifth domain (mental state). Over time, the objective is to achieve a net balance that favours positive experiences to enable animals to have a life worth living.



NUTRITION

Availability and quality of feed and water.



ENVIRONMENT

Atmospheric and environmental conditions.



HEALTH

Presence or absence of disease and injury.



BEHAVIOUR

Restriction or expression of behaviour.

POSITIVE

- Satiety
- Comfort
- Health/fitness
- Vitality
- Calmness
- Playfulness
- Security/confidence
- Engagement



MENTAL STATE

NEGATIVE

- Hunger/thirst
- Overheated/chilled
- Pain/weakness
- Exhaustion
- Frustration/anxiety
- Boredom
- Fearfulness
- Loneliness

How do the domains interact?

- **Example 1:** environmental temperature extremes (second domain) lead to chilling or overheating distress (negative mental states), whereas the provision of shelter and shade helps animals to be thermally comfortable (positive mental state).
- **Example 2:** situations that limit animals' behaviour (fourth domain) can lead to distress and boredom (negative mental states), whereas situations that provide behavioural opportunities and choice are more engaging and comfortable (positive mental states).