

1 What is Animal Welfare?



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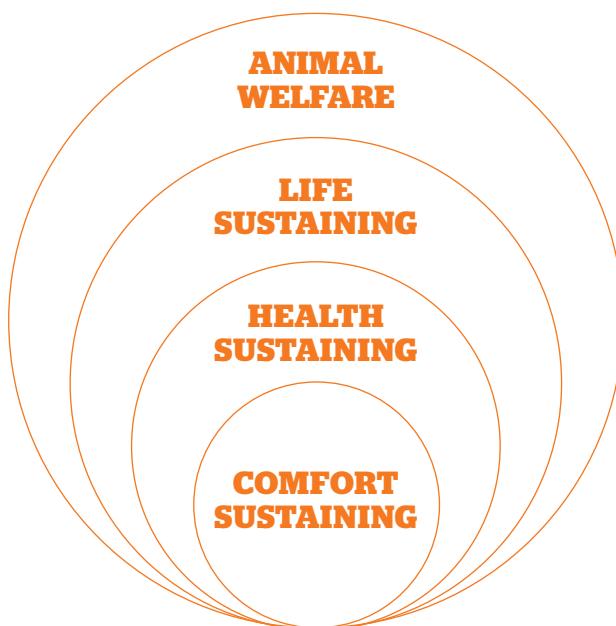
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Introduction

Animal welfare refers to the physical and emotional state that is impacted by the environment in which the animal lives and works, human attitudes and practices, and resources available to it. **Welfare is an ever-changing state** in which all of these factors can and will cause welfare to fluctuate between good, bad and somewhere in between on a near constant basis.

At the Brooke we aim for overall welfare to be good. This accepts that there can be good and bad experiences during the animal's life, but as far as possible health, life and comfort-sustaining needs are met.



Animal welfare needs. An animal's welfare will remain poor unless all of these levels of need are met.

Why should people be concerned about animal welfare?

Within the discipline of animal welfare we consider science, ethics and law. In some cases we have to be concerned because the law says so, in other ways we should because evidence leads to evolving ethical views on what is right.

- Domesticated animals work hard to provide us with many of the things that enable us to survive and thrive (e.g. meat, milk, draught power) so it is our **responsibility** to ensure they have a good quality of life.
- Just as we humans expect to be paid, or at least reap some personal benefit from a long day of hard work, animals deserve support for all the hard work they do that makes our lives easier and secures our livelihoods - **it is the least we can do for them**.
- Animals are fully contributing members of our communities that can feel pain, fear and stress as well as a wide range of positive emotions - we must look out for our **fellow community members** as best we can to ensure a happy, healthy and peaceful community.
- In some countries, legislation is in place to protect animal welfare and **it is a legal requirement** to provide for the needs of animals.

At the Brooke we need to help people meet their responsibilities despite the constraints which come from factors such as the environment, poverty, low status and restricted access to resources for their families and animals. An animal's welfare matters regardless of the function they serve. Good animal welfare is a necessity not a luxury.

There are multiple existing concepts of what animal welfare means, which are used in different ways for different reasons. Here are the main ones and how they have been used at the Brooke.

Concepts of Animal Welfare

The Five Freedoms

(Farm Animal Welfare Council 1979)

- Freedom from hunger or 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 or disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- Freedom to express (most) 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

The Five Freedoms were developed following reaction by the UK government to a book named 'Animal Machines' by Ruth Harrison in 1964. They apply to all animals, and remind us what to provide and look for to appraise welfare. While it may not be realistic to expect a working animal to ever be able to achieve all five freedoms at the same time, it is important owners and users are aware that the time and resources invested contributes to the welfare state of the animal.

Strengths

One of the first concepts, originating from a UK government report in the 1960's, to outline what animals need and want. They are widely known and used internationally, across different species.

Weaknesses

The 'freedoms' are an ideal output, only the provisions to reach the freedom are a reality for animals' daily lives. They are becoming out of date, as newer more useful concepts appear. Their focus is on relieving suffering, with limited promotion of positive states. The framework is general to all animals and requires knowledge of species-specific wants and needs to contribute towards the freedoms listed.

Use at the Brooke

This framework has been used within capacity building to provide a general appreciation of an animal's wants and needs. As an internationally known framework, it helps individuals speak a common language of welfare with others.

Physical, Emotional, Natural

(PEN, Fraser et al. 1997)

- Quality of Life concerns animals' mental experiences and is a central goal of animal welfare. Disease and injury cause unpleasant feelings such as pain, confusion and distress, so health is an important aspect of animal welfare.
- Quality of Life encompasses more than health, however, it includes positive and negative experiences; such as enjoyment, frustration and anxiety which may be caused by how the animal is cared for (Parker & Yeates 2012).
- It is judged over time (cumulative) and takes into account possible expectations of animals for what they need (survival) and want (choice).
- The Physical, Emotional and Natural (P.E.N.) framework combines all of these elements. For example, pain and discomfort are emotional experiences, and therefore many physical problems include an emotional component because of pain.

Strengths

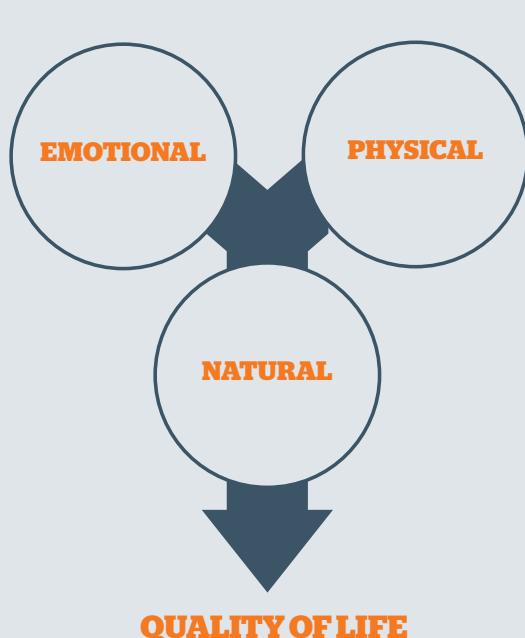
The framework promotes quality of life as the end goal. It highlights the importance of emotions and natural lives, beyond physical health.

Weaknesses

It is less widely known and used in practice. According to background and experience, people assign importance differently to the different components of physical, natural or emotional.

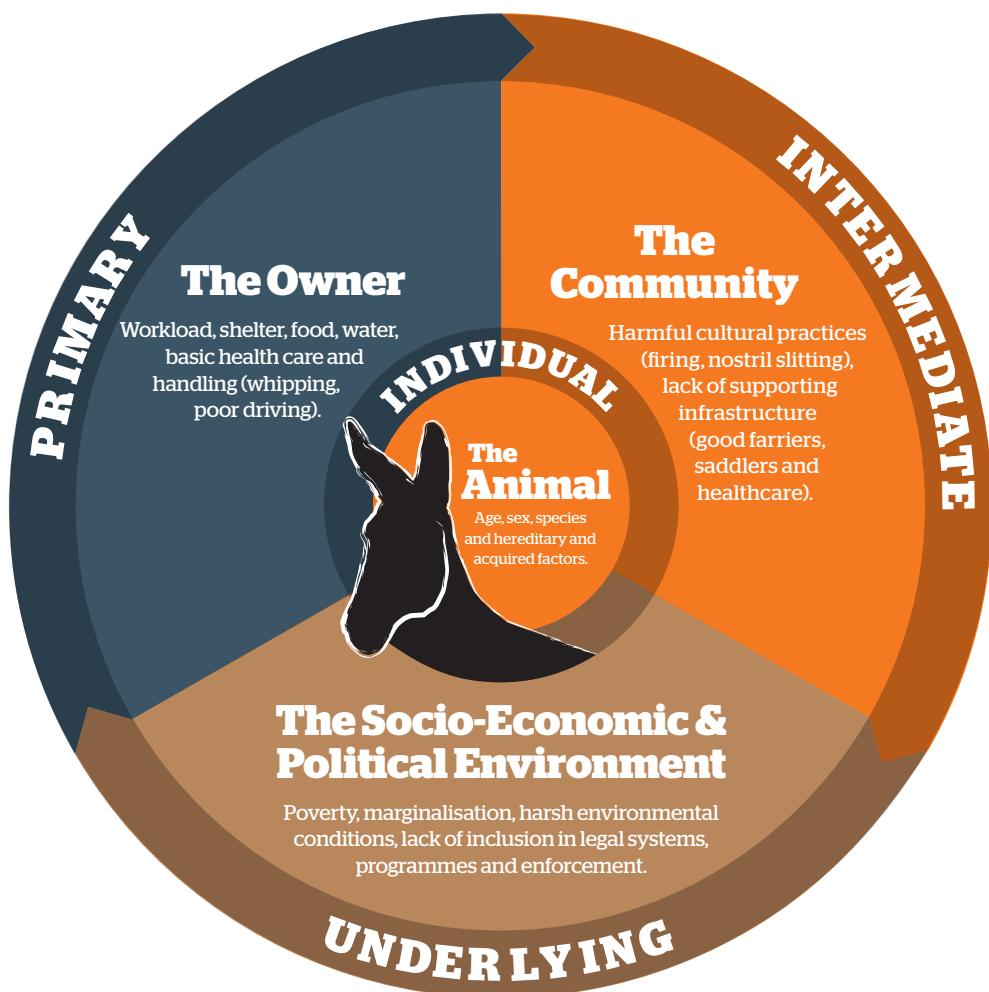
Use at the Brooke

This framework is used within capacity building to help develop an individual's way of thinking about welfare holistically, rather than having a clear applied use within appraisal or impact activities.



Influence of Human, Animal, Resource and Environment

(HARE, Brooke)



This concept of animal welfare focuses on the factors which affect animal welfare. These include:

- Human attitudes and practices (e.g. myths)
- Animal itself
- Resources available
 - Physical (e.g. shelter)
 - Human (e.g. farriers)
 - Info/knowledge (e.g. prevention)
- Environment animal lives and works (the surrounding area)

Strengths

The concept offers a good overview of the whole picture and covers factors at the animal, community, service provider and advocacy levels.

Weaknesses

The complex interaction of factors means it is unlikely to address them all at once. There is less focus on what animal welfare means from the animal's point of view.

Use at the Brooke

This was a framework developed within Brooke as a 'reason why' framework, in that it includes top-line considerations why an animal's welfare state is good, bad or somewhere in between.

Animal Welfare Domains

(Welfare Quality 2010, AWIN 2014, Mellor and Beausoleil 2015)

- This concept evolved from earlier frameworks to shift the focus towards positive states of welfare, while continuing to minimise negative ones.
- It includes the Nutrition, Environment and Health domains which focus on physical problems.
- The Behaviour domain focuses on the surroundings (e.g. the environment, humans or other animals) that limit expression of natural behaviour or pose a challenge an animal has to react to.
- All of these factors feed into the 'Mental States' domain. This is the emotions and moods the animal is feeling which determine the animal's welfare status.
- How many domains are fulfilled is more important for the animal than improvement in a few separate indicators.

Strengths

Positive as well as negative welfare is included and all of the five freedoms and PEN ideas are covered. There are many close links between the domains. The environment affects behaviour and mental states are closely associated with health and nutrition. It is not important to think about them separately, as whatever is affecting the animal's welfare could fall under more than one domain.

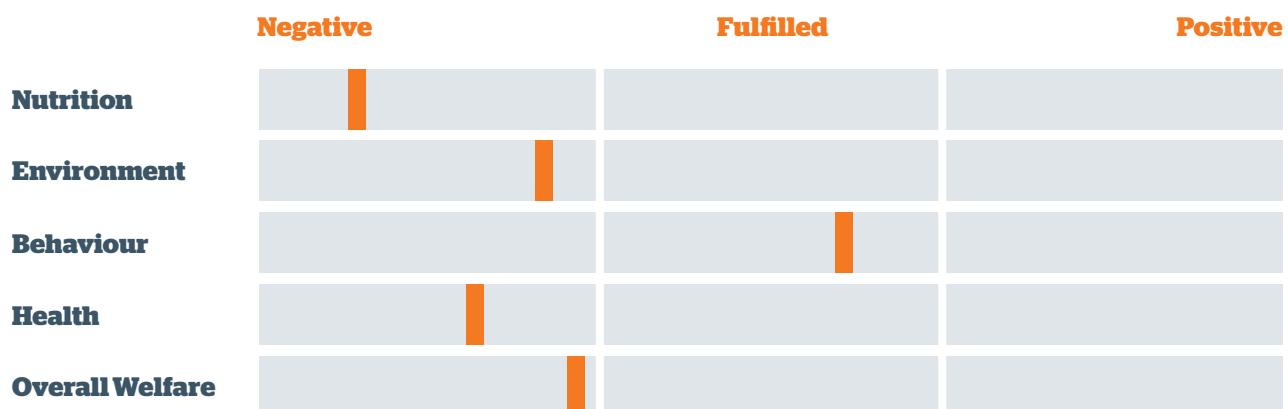
Weaknesses

It is less widely known and a new idea for individuals to learn. It should be used with real life examples to help in understanding.

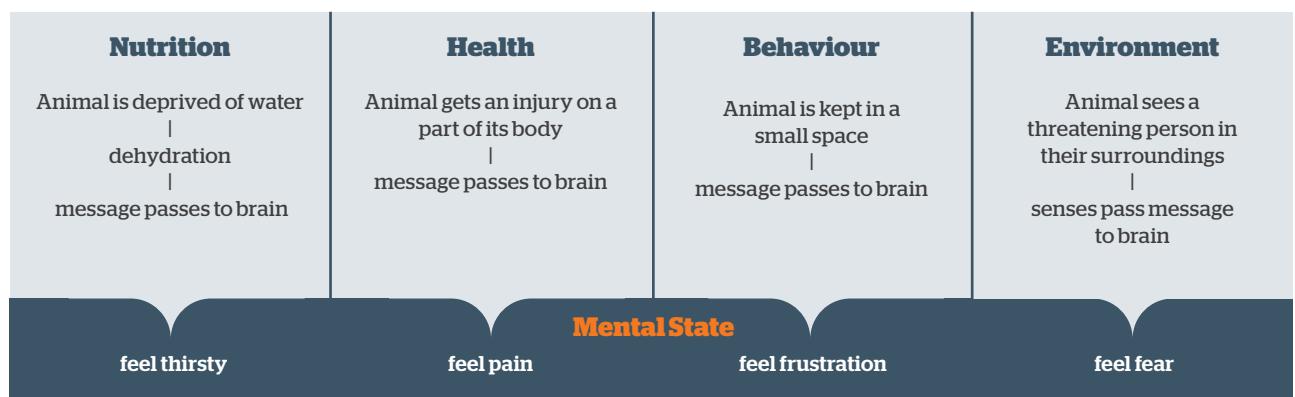
Use at the Brooke

It is a new concept to the Brooke. The domains could be used to rate how well the animal's needs and wants are met in each domain.

How well is each area being fulfilled for the animal?



Examples of experiences within each domain:



Measuring Impact on Animal Welfare

Why must animal welfare be measured at the Brooke?

- To provide a baseline to monitor and evaluate the impact of a project on the animal's welfare
- To be as objective as possible
- To compare the welfare status of animals between different locations or communities. To identify whether welfare issues vary by factors such as season, work type, animal age, gender or owner practices. This information is then useful to tailor a programme towards a particular group or time, or to target animals with the worst problems or a community which is willing to engage with us for example
- To identify the welfare issues which are occurring within an equine population and community
- To identify the prevalence and severity of different welfare issues
- What is happening to the level of welfare in the population
- To learn if changes are due to the intervention or they only reflect common trends in the local area?
- To learn if your intervention is making a positive or negative difference
- To enable targets to be generated to exit the area, based on the current welfare status and the potential for what can be achieved
- Re-assessment of the animals can be conducted at the end of a project or phase to provide the animal-focussed component of a project evaluation (endline data)
- The animal-based data obtained from the SEBWAT can be used to triangulate from other sources such as resource, environmental, and human-based measures pertinent to working equine welfare.

How is animal welfare measured at the Brooke?

- The basic principle of how to measure animal welfare involves assessing inputs and outcomes
- Inputs are the resource or environment-based indicators (RBI). These determine the potential of the resources or the environment, to provide good or poor welfare
- Outcomes, such as improved welfare or social attitude to animals, are measured by animal-based indicators (ABI) and human-based indicators (HBI). These reflect the actual status of the animal or the human behaviour towards the animal
- Overall, these measures must be combined to consider the animal's state, as described in the definitions, welfare is not made of a single component.

Formal and Informal Appraisal of Welfare at the Brooke

Animal welfare can be measured formally, with tools, and informally, through judgements based on experience. Both are important and both should form part of every intervention.

Importance of a formal appraisal of animal welfare

At the Brooke, this refers to SEBWAT and other project-specific tools on animals. Community engagement tools are also used to appraisal human knowledge, attitudes and practices which affect animal welfare.

- Provides an overview of the general welfare condition of working equine animals, both from the animal's point of view and at the group and community levels
- It avoids assumptions about the welfare status, allowing decisions to be evidence-based, rather than based on opinion
- Training and standardisation between assessors and enumerators reduces bias and error in the results, which means they are more reliable and repeatable
- It can be used at different stages of the project cycle, from scoping a new area, to monitoring and evaluation
- Change is recorded objectively, to reflect what is actually happening rather than opinion or perceptions

- There is greater discipline in the measurement of results, they can be repeated and replicated in other locations or by other people
- There is greater accountability for the delivery of programmes, as they are based on facts and evidence
- The evidence provided can empower decision making
- It encourages a focus on the end (what we want to achieve) and less on the means (how to get there)
- It is a powerful tool to keep asking throughout implementation, to answer what are we doing and to what end?
- It increases learning and knowledge gained, which is itself a form of evidence
- Through examining the animal and speaking to the owner and service providers, the causes of welfare problems can be identified at the same time as collecting data. This information helps to determine the intervention required
- Explicit definition of scoring criteria reduces scope for observer bias
- Data collection is minimally invasive to the animal
- Data can be analysed on many different levels - there is flexibility to suit varying organisational requirements.



Examples of formal tools

Formal tools used by the Brooke to assess impact

Effectiveness Framework Category	Tools	Type of Indicator
The Animal	Standardised Equine Based Welfare Assessment Tool (SEBWAT) Project specific, e.g. farriery, heat stress	Animal
Owners and Communities	Owner Behaviour Monitoring Assessment of Social change	Resource Environment Human
Service Providers	Clinical Quality Monitoring - Work based assessment and Owner Questionnaire	Resource Human
Policy Makers and Implementers	Policy maker ranking Policy mapping Stakeholder analysis	Human

Importance of informal appraisal of animal welfare at the Brooke

- It allows individuals to maintain skills in recognising good and poor welfare
- It encourages staying in touch with non-priority welfare issues
- It allows learning from failure, through discussions and knowledge gained in individuals, beyond the numbers
- In order to notice negative welfare changes - it is important to learn from what did not change, what went wrong and what did not have an effect
- It avoids focussing on the quantity of results over quality; on short-term, measurable achievements, rather than long-term, sustainable impact
- It conveys the scale of an activity, rather than the quality of interventions and their impact on lives
- It provides opportunity for learning about local context, so you are better able to adapt to local context
- You can observe transformational impact, which is often only possible only over several programme cycles
- It allows a more flexible approach to delivering the goal of equine welfare
- It allows taking a problem-solving approach, learning as you go and being willing to adjust programmes in response to lessons learned or changing conditions
- You can gain learning and knowledge not visible through numbers.

How welfare is informally appraised at the Brooke

- It should be carried out every time you visit a location that animals are present
- Appraisal of the conditions required of communities: communities have the capability to improve equine welfare (e.g. knowledge & skills), communities have the motivation to improve equine welfare, communities have the opportunity to improve equine welfare (e.g. time, resources, enabling environment)
- Applying I.C.E. (considering the animal's potential Injuries, Comfort and Emotion before and during interacting with them)
- Participatory tools - e.g. Participatory welfare needs assessment (PWNA)
- Recording qualitative changes. Animal-based measures provide a view of welfare from the animal's perspective. Information collected directly from the animal gives the most reliable representation of its welfare state and extent of coping with its environment.
- Observing an animal
- Speaking to the owner, user or local service provider



- Walking around the community, animal living shelters or work area
- Looking at how the animals are described in conversations, in the media
- Observing how other species are cared for (e.g. cattle, dogs)

Observing animals in their working and resting environments. What do you see in this situation? Which elements show good welfare and which poor welfare? What do you notice that would not be captured by your formal assessment tools?



Example of one of the Brooke's informal welfare appraisal tools used during scoping

Category	Parameter	Aspects for consideration when observing the animal and work or rest environment
Physical	Harness-related injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lesions at sites of harness abrasion on any part of the body ■ Abrasion of eye area associated with blinkers ■ Lesions at lip commissures or other parts of the mouth associated with biting ■ Lesions on tail, hindquarters, hindlimbs or hocks associated with contact with cart ■ Lesions on ribs associated with contact with cart shafts
	Non-harness-related injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Injury due to accidental collision ■ Injury suggestive of falling (e.g. knees, limbs, head) ■ Injury associated with whipping, beating, poking ■ Injury inflicted by other animals ■ Deliberately induced injury (e.g. mutilations, firing, chemical cauterity)
	Body weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Extent of muscle and fat coverage on the body
	Hooves and limbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shape and balance of hoof ■ Quality of hoof (e.g. cracks, breakage) ■ Consistency of hooves ■ Interference injury ■ Disease/infection of feet ■ Swelling/deformity of limbs
	General health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respiratory abnormalities ■ Skin infection ■ Ocular disease ■ Ectoparasites ■ Any other disease
Behavioural	Fear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Attempted avoidance of human proximity or physical contact ■ Human-directed aggression ■ Tension during handling ■ Distress or anxiety during handling
	Apathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Listlessness, dullness ■ Absence of interest in surrounding environment ■ Minimal response to human proximity or contact ■ Minimal response to any external disturbance
	Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Head/ear pain ■ Oral pain ■ Ocular pain ■ Spinal pain ■ Limb or hoof pain ■ Abdominal pain ■ Any other/non-specific pain

Category	Parameter	Aspects for consideration when observing the animal and work or rest environment
Numerical rating	Comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The apparent extent of comfort it is experiencing at the time of observation
	Happiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The apparent extent of happiness it is experiencing at the time of observation
	Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The apparent extent of overall welfare it is experiencing at the time of observation
Environmental	Hazards	<p>The work/rest environment will be observed with consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Risks of potential injury ■ Risks of fear/startling (e.g. sudden noise or motion) ■ Underfoot surface and terrain ■ Proximity of animals to dangerous stimuli (e.g. moving vehicles, machinery, over-crowding with other animals)
	Social interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Opportunity for visual, auditory and olfactory contact with conspecifics ■ Opportunity for physical contact with conspecifics ■ Opportunity for performance of natural 'herd' behaviours
	Discomfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Temperature, thermal comfort ■ Protection from elements (e.g. rain, wind, sunlight) ■ Ventilation, air quality ■ Hygiene ■ Ability to rest comfortably
	Mobility/restraint (rest sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature of restraint/housing ■ Restriction of physical freedom ■ Restriction of behavioural freedom ■ Risk of injury due to restraint/housing
	Intensity (rest sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exertion during work ■ Extent of physical difficulty to conduct work in relation to capabilities of animal
	Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Goading ■ Beating ■ Any form of physical contact intended/likely to be aversive
Human-animal interaction (work sites)	Vocal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aggressive vocalisation
	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Physical contact intended to support/assist the animal with work ■ Neutral, non-aversive physical contact ■ Physical contact intended to praise/reward the animal ■ Vocalisation intended to praise/reward the animal ■ Non-aggressive vocalisation intended to encourage or instruct the animal (in lieu of physical goading)

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