

the charity for
your community



Animal welfare

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into force on 6 April in England. It places a legal responsibility on people who are responsible for animals, including pet owners, to be legally responsible for meeting the welfare needs of those animals. These include providing a suitable diet, and a suitable place to live, allowing animals to express normal behaviour and protecting them from pain, suffering, injury and disease. The Act strengthens penalties for cruelty and animal fighting offences and introduces a new offence of failing to ensure the welfare of animals. With some exceptions, it also bans mutilation of animals.