



WSAVA Animal Welfare Charter

WSAVA ANIMAL WELLNESS & WELFARE COMMITTEE



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Community

WSAVA recognises companion animals as sentient beings, capable of experiencing both positive and negative affective states and emotions. Companion animal welfare should be protected by decreasing negative experiences and promoting positive ones.

WSAVA defines animal welfare as the physical and psychological, social and environmental well-being of animals and believes that all veterinarians have a responsibility to lead and advocate for the best possible welfare outcomes.



WSAVA
through our global companion animal veterinary
community will strive for the betterment of animal
welfare by:

- » utilising the Five Animal Welfare Needs as a framework to ensure human caregivers provide for the basic welfare requirements of animals, which includes the needs:
 - * for a suitable environment
 - * for a suitable diet
 - * to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
 - * to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
 - * to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease
- » considering animals in their wider ecological context and how decisions concerning animals impacts on wider society
- » continuously educating our veterinarians and veterinary teams on animal welfare and behaviour
- » protecting animals in disasters and including animals in disaster-relief programs
- » managing animal populations and disease control in the most humane manner available and acceptable by society



WSAVA
through our global companion animal veterinary
community will strive for the betterment of animal
welfare by:

- » promoting preventative healthcare and the practice of good veterinary standards including good pain management
- » providing relief from suffering through humane euthanasia if necessary
- » educating the public on responsible pet ownership and their duty of care towards animals
- » advocating both within the veterinary clinic and the community for the welfare of animals

Our WSAVA Vision

"All companion animals worldwide receive the veterinary care that ensures their optimal health and welfare."

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