



Student Assistance Animal Request Questionnaire v1.0 June 2024

Animal Welfare Act

Prior to the Animal Welfare Act, animal welfare law was largely reactive, and action could only be taken once an animal had suffered unnecessarily.

The 2006 Act has introduced an important and new concept for pet owners and those responsible for domestic animals, e.g. breeders, those who have working animals or farm animals in England and Wales.

Preventing animals suffering

This means enforcement agencies and inspectors such as the RSPCA can now act by advising and educating owners before their pets suffer. If this advice is not followed or the animal's needs are not being met then action can be taken whether through a formal warning or in some cases a prosecution.

What does the law actually say?

Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act places a duty of care on people to ensure they take reasonable steps in all the circumstances to meet the welfare needs of their animals to the extent required by good practice.

What does this mean for those responsible for animals?

- need for a suitable environment
- need for a suitable diet
- need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals
- need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
- The following questions are about how you are going to meet the needs of your animal.

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1. Have you considered what the minimum welfare standards are for this particular animal?

Please provide evidence of the minimum standards.

2. Where would you be keeping the animal and its enclosure (if applicable)?
3. Will the furniture in accommodation withstand the required weight of the enclosure, what will the enclosure sit on? (The University cannot be held responsible for the injury of the animal if sited on inadequate furniture/stands).
4. Does the enclosure allow the animal to exhibit its normal behaviours?
 - a) How is the animal stimulated?
 - b) How is the animal socialised?
 - c) Is the enclosure (if applicable) of an adequate size (please state size)?
5. Does the animal need to be housed with another animal?

6. How will you maintain the environmental factors appropriate to the animal? E.g heating/cooling?

Note: Equipment required to maintain optimal environmental conditions will need to be PAT tested, and risk assessed by Health and Safety.

7. What are the storage requirements for the food for the animal?

8. How is the food going to be stored if, for example, it is not human food grade?

Note: food will not be allowed to be stored in communal areas

9. How is the waste managed?

a) Living habitat waste.

b) Waste of animal itself.

10. Has the animal been neutered (if applicable)?

11. Have you considered any specialist care required?

a) Can a local vet deal with the specialist care required (please confirm the vet you have approached)?

12. Exotic animals

a) Is the animal covered by CITES agreement?

c) How will you meet the care needs of the animal when you are away from the accommodation for any other reason?

5. Have you considered if University managed accommodation is suitable for the needs of the animal, you and in consideration of others?

6. Have you explored other alternative accommodation?

The following questions are about how you are going to meet the financial requirements and evidence required.

1. How are you planning to financially support the animal's potential welfare needs?

2. How are you going to financially support the animal's environmental and dietary needs?

3. Have you evidence of a clear medical need for an animal? Please provide evidence (required).

4. Can you provide evidence of Public Liability Insurance (required)?

5. Can you provide evidence of Pet Insurance or other evidence to show you can meet the welfare needs of the animal?

6. Can you provide evidence that the animal has received suitable training (if applicable)? ***see note below**

7. Please provide a name of a local vet that will be able to meet the welfare needs of your animal.

8. Please provide evidence of appropriate vaccinations.

Note: Training Requirements

Many Assistance Dogs will have received expert training through a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) (www.assistancedogs.org.uk). Some, but not all, Assistance Dogs will carry an ID book which provides information about the dog and the training organisation. However, it is not a legal requirement for an Assistance Dog user to have an ID book.

It is the University's preference that Assistance Dogs have been trained by an organisation that is a member of ADUK or international equivalent. A list of ADUK members can be found at: <https://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/about-aduk>. The University recognises that Assistance Dogs may be trained by other organisations or charities or even be owner-trained, however Assistance Dogs trained through these alternative channels must be trained to the same high standards as those trained by ADUK members.

Evidence to be provided to Disability & Dyslexia Service sent together with the completion of this questionnaire to disability@worc.ac.uk

Public liability Insurance

Pet Insurance

Evidence of medical need

Evidence of training

Evidence of minimum standards

Exotic animals – import documentation if applicable

Signed:

Date:

Student No: