LET’S TALK about PETS

Find out how to BIN the BOWL!
Find out who NEEDS a FRIEND...

Five steps to HAPPY PETS!
Happy pets at Wood Green!

At Wood Green, The Animals Charity, we look after lots of different animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, hamsters, chickens, degus, chinchillas and ferrets! All the animals we care for need a new home and a family to love them.

In this booklet, you’ll find out what pets need and how we can all keep them healthy and happy. There are lots of puzzles and challenges for you to try too! So let’s get started!

WHAT PETS NEED TO BE HAPPY...

If you have a pet at home, or you know someone who does, you will know they are part of the family! So we must give them everything they need to be healthy and happy – just like we would for another member of the family.

Pets need five important things to be happy and healthy. These are called their welfare needs.

- **HOME**: a safe place to live
- **DIET**: the right food
- **COMPANIONSHIP**: time with us or other animals or being alone, whichever they prefer
- **VET CARE**: a healthy life
- **NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**: the chance to do what pets love doing

It is the law to give animals these five important things. Without all five, animals can become unhappy and even very ill.

We find homes for more than 3,480 homeless animals every year and help more than 3,500 owners keep their pets healthy and happy!

HELPING OWNERS CARE FOR THEIR PETS

Can you draw Chris from Wood Green helping a dog owner teach their dog to walk on a lead without pulling?

TOP TIP

Giving your DOG tasty treats when they do well is a great way to help them walk nicely on a lead!

Can you MATCH the pictures to the five things cats NEED? Draw a line from each photo to its partner.

The Big Five CHALLENGE!

Happy pets at Wood Green!
Home: a safe place to live

THE BIGGER THE BETTER

All pets need a safe space to live, and enough room to eat, sleep, rest, exercise and feel comfortable.

Make Henry a happy home!
Meet Henry, a fabulous Syrian hamster!
He needs a new place to live.
Can you help by choosing a new home for him?
Which hamster cage do you think he would be happiest in? Circle your answer.

Small cage  Medium cage  Large cage

In the wild, hamsters can walk for over 5 miles in just one night!
So the more space they have as a pet, the happier they will be. He would love to live in the large cage and have lots of space for exploring.

SO for Henry’s CAGE, it’s the bigger the better!

It’s the bigger the better for other pets too!
When it comes to homes, it isn’t just hamsters that need a lot of space. It’s the bigger the better for all small pets. The more room you can give them, the happier they will be.

Look at some of these ideas for happy homes for rabbits.

The Five Welfare NEEDS

A HOME for BUBBLE and SQUEAK

Now you are an EXPERT on ‘the bigger the better’, can you draw a fun home for our pair of guinea pigs, Bubble and Squeak?

Go Wild

EXPLORING!

Need for a suitable environment...
Animals need to have the right type of home, including shelter and space. They need to be able to exercise and have somewhere comfortable to rest or hide.

Follow the maze to help him find food and water and get to a safe cosy bed for his long day-time nap!

Think how much FUN your rabbits could have in this much space!

You could use some of these ideas for the homes for rabbits to help you. And remember, there’s two of them!
Diet: the right food

**BIN THE BOWL!**

We need to feed pets the right sort of food and the right amount of food. But what about how we feed them?

Lots of pets really enjoy their food. So why not bin the bowl to make their fun last a bit longer and make feeding time more interesting?

**Can you draw a line and match each pet to a fun way to feed them?** There might be more than one answer for some pets!

---

**Need for a suitable diet...**

Animals need to be given the right type and amount of food to keep them healthy. They also need fresh, clean water at all times.

---

**Diet:** the right food

**BIN the bowl BONANZA!**

Why not invent your own ideas for how to bin the bowl? Here are a few ideas to get you started!

Don’t forget to give your pets plenty of fresh, clean water too!

---

**Tell us YOUR IDEAS!**

We’d LOVE to hear your ideas and even SEE them in action! Take a photo and ask an adult to send it to us at community@woodgreen.org.uk Your idea might even make it into our next fun booklet!

---

**Hide and seek!**

Molly’s owner has scattered Molly’s breakfast in the garden.

She has 10 more kibble pieces to find. Can you help her?

Circle them when you find them.

---

**Answers:**

*Cats:* puzzle feeder, scatter feeding in the garden, activity box.

*Guinea pigs:* hay kebab.

*Mice:* activity box, scatter feeding in the garden.

*Dogs:* scatter feeding in the garden, activity box.
Companionship: time with us or other animals or being alone

**FIND ME A FRIEND**

Some animals need a friend to be happy. All rabbits – like George and Geraldine – need a rabbit friend for snuggles, rabbit playtime and to feel safe. A rabbit living on their own can feel very sad and lonely.

Did you know...

if you have a small pet at home that would like a friend, Wood Green can help! We can find them a pet pal and introduce them to make sure they will be friends for life!

We found a friend for these animals – look how HAPPY they are!

**COMPANIONSHIP**

Need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals...

Some animals need friends of their own kind and some should be housed on their own.

Who needs a FRIEND?

Can you draw a friend for the pets below that might feel sad and lonely living on their own?

- Gerbil
- Rat
- Chicken
- Mouse
- Syrian hamster
- Ferret
- Guinea pig

What’s **MISSING**?

Can you ADD the missing words to these sentences about animal FRIENDS?

Rabbits need ___ ___ ___ ___ friends to be happy.

Guinea pigs need guinea pig friends to be ___ ___ ___ ___.

Rats need rat ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ to be happy.

A Syrian hamster needs to live on their ___ ___ to be happy.

Now make up your own sentences about chickens and ferrets to challenge a friend!

Missing words:

- friends
- own
- rabbit
- happy

Your missing words:

We found a friend for these animals – look how HAPPY they are!

Answers: All the animals need a friend the same as them to feel happy apart from the Syrian hamster, who needs to live on his own to be happy.
Vet care: a healthy life

BANISH THOSE BUGS!

We need to keep our pets fit and healthy – and make sure they’re not uncomfortable or in pain. If they are, we need to take them to the vet.

Sometimes, small pets need to go to the vets because they have itchy skin. Did you know this could be caused by their bedding? There can often be little bugs in sawdust and wood shavings that jump onto pets and make them itchy and uncomfortable. For some small pets, swapping sawdust for shredded paper bedding can help to banish those bugs!

Banish those bugs for cats and dogs too!

Dogs and cats can get bugs too – these are called fleas. Fleas make cats and dogs very itchy and uncomfortable. The fleas can also jump onto us and start to make us itchy too.

Using flea medicine regularly stops fleas being a problem for both you and your pet. You can buy medicine that works really well from the vet or from a pet medicine website.

*Actual size

Medicine maze

Can you help Peter find a place to buy some flea medicine that works really well for his cat, Tigger?

Hooray for hay!

To banish the bugs for rabbits and guinea pigs, there is even better bedding than shredded paper – hay! They love to munch on it, so the more you give them, the happier they will be!

Here are some of our small pets enjoying a shredded PAPER bed. Can you work out what animals they are? Write the answer by their picture.

Answers: Mouse, rat, Syrian hamster.

Can you draw some HAPPY guinea pigs living in a nice BIG home with hay to run around on and nibble?
Normal behaviour: the chance to do what they love doing

TOY TIME!

It's important for pets to be able to do what comes naturally to them and do what they love doing.

Some small pets love to climb, explore and hide, so toys that help them do these things keep them very happy.

All sorts of things make great toys for hamsters, mice and rats. They don't have to cost lots of money – unwanted things hiding in cupboards often make the best toys!

MICE GAMES!

Can you draw lots of toys for our pair of friendly pet mice – Millie and Minnie – to play with?

We can SEE YOU!

Swap shop!

Giving small pets lots of toys to play with is great fun. Swapping their toys around each time you clean their cage keeps things exciting for them.

As well as making toys from what you already have at home, our charity shops are a great place to find different toys at bargain prices.

Plus, every time you buy something from one of our shops, the money you spend goes towards helping the animals we care for.

Show us YOUR PETS having FUN!

We’d LOVE to see your PET having fun exploring lots of exciting TOYS. Ask an adult to take a picture and send it to us at community@woodgreen.org.uk

Normal behaviour needs to be able to show normal behaviour...

Animals should have enough space and exciting things to do, to be able to show their normal behaviour.
What Nibbles NEEDS!

Nibbles the rabbit wants to tell you about the **FIVE** things he and his friends need to be **happy** and **healthy**.

Go to [woodgreen.org.uk/educational-resources/rabbit-welfare-videos](http://woodgreen.org.uk/educational-resources/rabbit-welfare-videos) to watch Nibbles star in five fabulous films!

**Watch carefully…**

See if you can remember **ONE** fun fact from each film. Then write each one in the correct box below.

---

**BIN the bowl**

**CAT STYLE!**

**What you need**

- A piece of strong cardboard such as the back of a cereal box
- Toilet roll or kitchen roll tubes
- An empty, washed out yoghurt pot
- PVA glue

---

**What Nibbles NEEDS!**

1. Cut up the toilet roll or kitchen roll tubes to be different heights.
2. Using the cardboard as a base, lay out the tubes and yoghurt pots, leaving the open top of the yoghurt pots facing upwards.
3. When you are happy with the layout, glue everything to the base and leave to dry.
4. When dry and all the items are stuck well, decorate the base using felt tips or crayons.
5. Rather than using your cat’s bowl to feed them, use the puzzle feeder. Hide dry food inside the tubes and wet food can be added into the yoghurt pots.
6. After your cat has found all their food, wash out the yoghurt pots and you can re-use the feeder another time.

---

**If your CAT becomes an EXPERT at using the feeder, make another using taller tubes to make it more of a challenge!!**
Get free advice about your pet

If you’d like some free advice about caring for your pet:

❤️ call our Pet Support Line on **0300 303 9333**

❤️ email **Pet.Support@woodgreen.org.uk**

❤️ visit **woodgreen.org.uk**

---

Let’s talk about pets!

We want to get you, your family and friends all talking about pets! The more everyone talks about what pets need, the easier it will be to make sure they stay happy and healthy!