



**WOOD
GREEN**
The Animals Charity

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!



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!**

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.

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!

The Big Five CHALLENGE!



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



Answers: Home – high-up bed, Diet – cardboard tube puzzle feeder fun, Companionship – on owner's lap, Vet care – vet check, Normal behaviour – out and about in the garden.

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!

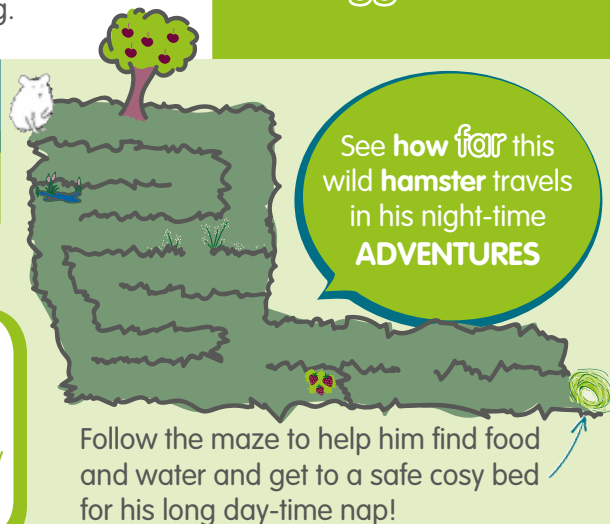
So the more space they have as a pet, the happier they will be. He would love to live in the large cage and have lots of space for exploring.

SO for Henry's CAGE,
it's the **bigger** the **better**!

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.



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.**



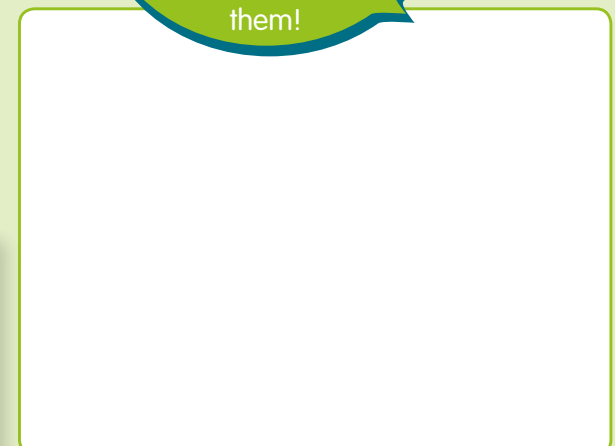
Think how much **FUN** your **rabbits** could have in this much **space**!



You could use some of these ideas for the homes for rabbits to help you. And remember, there's **two** of them!

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**?



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.

Answers: Cats: puzzle feeder, scatter feeding in the garden, activity box. **Dogs:** scatter feeding in the garden, activity box. **Mice:** scatter feeding in the cage, activity box. **Guinea pigs:** hay kebab

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!



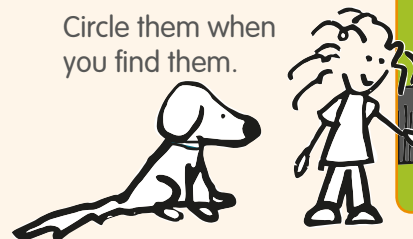
Tell us YOUR IDEAS!

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.



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.

In the MIX!

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!



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

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.

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!

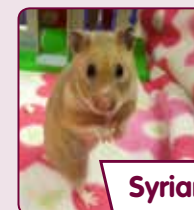
Missing words:

friends
own
rabbit
happy

Your missing words:



Mouse



Syrian hamster



Ferret



Guinea pig

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.



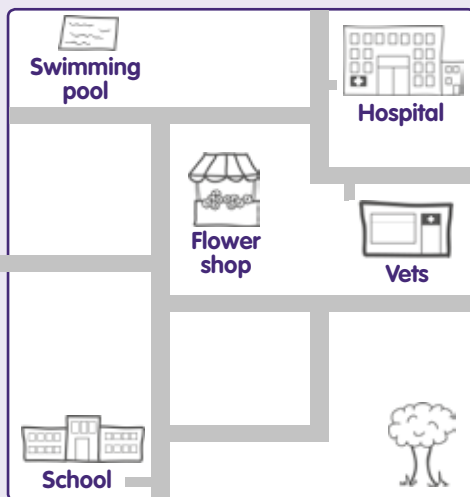
Dog flea*

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?



Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease...

Pets need to be kept healthy and taken to the vets if they are ill or injured. Some animals need flea and worming treatment and vaccinations.

NO more BED BUGS!



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.

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!

Can you draw some **HAPPY guinea pigs** living in a nice **BIG** home with **hay** to run around on and nibble?

Answers: Mouse, rat, Syrian hamster.

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?



Use some of the ideas above to help you get started!



Need 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.

We can
SEE
YOU!

Take a look at these pet cages **packed** full of **TOYS!** Can you **spot the animals** living inside them? Circle the animals when you find them!



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

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



Make a **puzzle feeder** for your own **CAT**, or a friend's **CAT**, to make feeding time **more FUN!**

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!!

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 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.

Good luck!





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!

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**

