

5 welfare needs quiz

This quiz is designed for you to read out. You can make it more active for the children by setting up three bases called a, b and c, and asking them to run to the right one for each answer. It will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. The correct answers are in bold, and each question has some extra info that you can read out.

1. What makes a good home for a hamster?

- a) In your bed so they can cuddle up to you
- b) A secure cage with lots of room to sleep and play**
- c) In a shoebox with cotton wool to sleep in

Extra info: Hamsters need to be kept in a cage, otherwise they might escape and get hurt. Their cage needs to be secure, let in light and air, and be made of something the hamster can't chew through.

2. What would be a good food treat for a dog?

- a) Chocolate cake
- b) Dog treats**
- c) Pizza

Extra info: Chocolate and pizza are bad for dogs and can make them ill. In fact, chocolate is poisonous to dogs. Dog treats are fine because they're made with dog-friendly ingredients.

3. Which animal is nocturnal – more active at night than during the day?

- a) Dog
- b) Syrian hamster**
- c) Horse

Extra info: In the wild, Syrian hamsters spend the day in underground burrows, and come out at night to feed. So you shouldn't disturb them if they are sleeping during the day – you should mostly handle them in the evening.

4. Which of these is best for horses?

- a) A paddock with no other animals
- b) A paddock with a few other horses**
- c) A big pen with cattle, sheep, and other horses

Extra info: Horses usually like being with other horses. They need space to move around, so a pen isn't right for them, especially if the pen is crowded with other animals.

5. What should you do when travelling by car with a dog in hot weather?

- a) Let it travel with its head out of the window to stay cool
- b) Use window shades, open windows slightly, and stop for regular water/toilet breaks**
- c) Give it a lollipop to cool down

Extra info: It's dangerous for a dog to travel with its head out of a car window. It's dangerous for you too! Also, you should never leave a dog in a parked car, even if the weather's not that hot.

6. Where should a dog sleep?

- a) Wherever it likes
- b) In a four-poster bed
- c) In its own comfortable bed**

Extra info: Dogs need somewhere warm and safe to sleep. A puppy might need to learn where it's supposed to sleep, so a favourite toy or comforter is a good idea!

7. Which food is best to feed to birds you may see in a garden?

- a) Bread
- b) Sweets
- c) Seed mix**

Extra info: Seeds are the best food, because they provide a balanced diet. Birds shouldn't eat bread because it doesn't contain any of the nutrients they need – it just fills them up and it can go mouldy and harm them if they eat it.

8. What is the best way to stop a cat scratching the furniture?

- a) Keep it out of the house
- b) Encourage it to use a scratching post with cat nip**
- c) Get rid of all the furniture

Extra info: You should introduce a scratching post as soon as you can, so your cat gets used to it. If your cat scratches the furniture, you should spray the scratching post with catnip and praise the cat every time they use it.

9. What does it mean when people say hens have a 'pecking order'?

- a) They take turns to peck at food
- b) In most groups there is an order of importance or leadership**
- c) You have commanded them to peck something

Extra info: A group of hens will develop a 'pecking order' – this means one of them is the 'boss' and usually eats first when they're fed. Hens need plenty of room so that the stronger hens don't bully the others.

10. Why should you give birds a piece of cuttlebone?

- a) To peck for calcium to supplement their diet**
- b) To perch on, as a change from a plain round perch
- c) To talk to, so that they have plenty of practice when you're not around

Extra info: Cuttlebone is part of the shell of a cuttlefish, but a cuttlefish isn't a fish, it's a sea creature that's related to squids and octopuses.

11. What type of animals should live in a vivarium?

- a) Fish
- b) Reptiles**
- c) Horses

Extra info: Reptiles need to have a home that matches the light, temperature and dampness of the air of where they live in the wild. It's very important to get the right vivarium for your pet reptile.

12. What should you put a cat's drinking water in?

- a) **A small shallow bowl**
- b) A watering can
- c) A can with a straw

Extra info: A small shallow bowl is best so a cat can drink the water easily. It's important that you keep the water fresh and clean, and that your cat can find it whenever they feel thirsty.

13. What can you do if your dog pulls on the lead?

- a) **Stop, call them back and give lots of praise when they come back and walk by your side**
- b) Shout at them then say that if they do that again there will be no more walks
- c) Run after them

Extra info: If you run when your dog pulls on the lead they will think it's a game! If you shout, your dog might be frightened and they won't know why you are shouting. Praise is the best way to make your dog behave better.

14. Which pet animal is most closely related to the fox?

- a) **Dog**
- b) Cat
- c) Guinea pig

Extra info: Young female foxes are called vixens. They sometimes look after other foxes' cubs in a sort of crèche or playschool, where the young cubs can learn important life skills.

15. Why does a snake shed its skin?

- a) Because it is ill
- b) **It grows out of its old skin and grows a new one underneath**
- c) To scare off animals that want to eat it

Extra info: As a snake grows, its skin doesn't grow with it, so eventually it gets too small. The snake wriggles out of its old skin, sometimes rubbing against bark and twigs to help, and revealing a new skin underneath.

Additional questions

Extend the activity with these questions for more quiz fun!

16. Which plant should never be allowed to grow in a horse's paddock?

- a) Grass
- b) Clover
- c) Ragwort**

Extra info: Grass and clover are good for horses, but ragwort is poisonous. If there's ragwort in a paddock you should dig it out, making sure you get all the roots.

17. Which animal eats only food from plants and vegetables?

- a) Hedgehog
- b) Python
- c) Rabbit**

Extra info: Hedgehogs are insectivores – their main diet is worms, slugs and other creepy-crawlies. Pythons are carnivores, which means they eat only other animals. Rabbits are herbivores, which means they only eat plants.

18. Why should you provide a deep layer of peat or soil for gerbils?

- a) They like to lie on something soft
- b) So that they can build little houses
- c) So that they can tunnel as they do in the wild**

Extra info: In the deserts where they live in the wild, gerbils dig burrows to stay safe and keep cool, so pet gerbils need a layer they can tunnel in too.

19. Which animals should rabbits live with?

- a) **Other rabbits**
- b) Tigers
- c) Guinea pigs

Extra info: Rabbits like company and shouldn't be kept alone. A neutered male and female make the best pair, although a neutered same-sex pair can also live together. Rabbits and guinea pigs shouldn't be kept together because they have different needs.

20. Why do small animals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, rats, gerbils and mice need something hard to chew?

- a) So they won't bite you
- b) **To wear their teeth down because their teeth keep growing**
- c) They like to decorate things with teeth marks

Extra info: Hamsters, guinea pigs, rats, gerbils and mice are rodents, which means their teeth are always growing longer. If they get too long the animal has trouble eating, so they need to gnaw to wear their teeth down.

21. Around what temperature should the water in a tropical aquarium be?

- a) **18-25°C**
- b) 90-100°C
- c) 0-10°C

Extra info: Tropical fish need to live in water that's between 18 and 25°C. It's important to use a special heater with a thermostat in the aquarium, so you can keep an eye on the water temperature.

22. Why is it important not to give fish too much food?

- a) The fish will get fat and lazy
- b) **It will make the water dirty**
- c) It gives fish an upset tummy

Extra info: Food that the fish don't eat rots in the water, which makes it cloudy and harms the fish. You should use a net to scoop out any food the fish haven't eaten after you feed them.

23. Why do bearded dragons need to have an ultra-violet light and platform to bask on in their vivarium?

a) To help them grow stronger bones

b) So they can read at night

c) So they can get an all-over tan

Extra info: It's important that the light has a mesh guard and that the platform is the right distance from the lamp, otherwise the bearded dragon might burn its skin.

24. Which is the best type of group for bearded dragons?

a) Two bearded dragons and a cat

b) A male or female on their own

c) Three males with one female bearded dragon

Extra info: Bearded dragons seem to be happy living alone, and don't seem to need company. If they're handled often, they can become very friendly towards their owners.

25. Why should you use a filter in an aquarium?

a) To keep the water clean and pump oxygen into it

b) To pump in water to keep the tank full because the fish drink the water

c) To take air out of the water because air kills fish

Extra info: A filter makes sure there's enough oxygen in the water. Just like all animals, fish need oxygen to breathe. They take it out of the water with their gills.

26. Where should you place a pet bird's home?

a) In a place where the temperature doesn't change much and there are no draughts

b) In the kitchen where the birds can watch you cooking

c) Up a tree

Extra info: Birds shouldn't live in the kitchen, because non-stick cookware gives off fumes that can poison them. Having a temperature that stays the same helps birds stay healthy.

27. Emma is buying a 12kg bag of oat chaff to mix with her pet's food. What is her pet?

- a) Canary
- b) Tropical fish
- c) Horse**

Extra info: Horses should be given oat chaff as well as hay and live grass growing in the paddock. Oat chaff helps good digestion and increases the time they spend chewing.

28. Dan has put two cardboard boxes in his rabbits' pen. They are a bit bigger than the rabbits. What are they for?

- a) To teach the rabbits to keep their toys tidy
- b) For the rabbits to eat
- c) For the rabbits to play in or to hide in if they feel frightened**

Extra info: Rabbits' homes need toys for them to play with, and places where they can hide if anything scares them or if they want to be quiet.

29. How do bees let each other know where to find pollen?

- a) By buzzing
- b) With their eyes
- c) By dancing**

Extra info: Bees waggle their tails and spin around to tell other bees where to find more food. This dance is called a waggle dance.

30. Which of these things could make a hedgehog ill if left out for it to eat?

- a) Cat food
- b) Water
- c) Bread and milk**

Extra info: Hedgehogs shouldn't eat bread and milk because it can give them diarrhoea. Cat food is good for them as long as it hasn't got fish in it, and like other animals, they always need water.