

Abnormal behaviour

Executive summary

The prevention and management of abnormal behaviour, which is often a complex and multifactorial problem, are essential goals, given their impacts on animal health and welfare. It is important that veterinary professionals, pet owners, farmers, and all those involved in the care of animals, understand that abnormal behaviour can be an indicator or symptom of the welfare needs of an animal, or group of animals, not being adequately met

In the interests of animal health and welfare:

- All animal owners and keepers should be aware of and understand the five welfare needs which are enshrined in the Animal Welfare Acts
- All veterinary professionals working with a particular species or group of species should ensure they remain abreast of the latest available science and research such that they are able to recognise abnormal behaviours and advise on prevention and management strategies
- BVA and the relevant species divisions should work in partnership to develop positions on the species-specific issues and solutions surrounding abnormal behaviour