

## ANIMAL WELFARE

Whilst recognising that human welfare in many cases requires dominance over animals, BVA believes that this should be exercised with responsibility, and with due consideration and compassion for the animals concerned.

**BVA believes that the Five Freedoms are essential to the welfare of any animal kept in captivity:**

1. **freedom from hunger or thirst**
2. **freedom from thermal or physical discomfort**
3. **freedom from pain, injury and disease**
4. **freedom from fear and distress**
5. **freedom to indulge in normal behaviour patterns**

The profession also has a responsibility to take active steps to safeguard animal welfare. Following the promises taken at registration, veterinary surgeons should assess the welfare aspects of all husbandry systems, and make appropriate recommendations.

**Animal welfare should be based on scientific, veterinary, ecological, ethical and ethological considerations. Although recognising that neither sentiment nor economic factors can be entirely divorced from welfare, they *should never be paramount in its consideration.***

For further advice please contact BVA