



Improving animal welfare: improving animal health management

The role of vets

Our **Blueprint for Animal Health** is built around a three-step approach to keeping animals healthy and one in which we all play a part. In the second of our fact-sheet series, we're looking at the vital consultative and advisory role of vets when it comes to upholding the three pillars of this approach.

Stop disease getting to the animal

In farm livestock, this involves taking appropriate measures designed to reduce the risk of exposure to infectious diseases, consulting with and advising farmers on issues such as biosecurity, quarantining new animals and correct pasture management to reduce the worm burden.

For pets, protecting our pets through responsible pet healthcare is key. Vets should provide advice to help reduce exposure to disease, to encourage good hygiene and support on issues such as preventing fleas in the home and taking pets abroad.

Equip animals to fight disease if they do encounter it

For vets, this includes opening an ongoing conversation with farmers and pet owners alike to ensure that the right preventative healthcare measures are being taken to protect the health and welfare of their animals. This involves consulting closely with those who care for animals to proactively ensure they are undertaking regular check-ups and keeping up to date with vaccination programmes and parasite prevention.

It also means safeguarding the health and welfare of the animal by advising farmers and pet owners alike on everything from the correct diet for their animal to advising on housing for farm animals and pets alike according to their specific needs, through to providing behavioural advice which helps ensure that an animal's health and wellbeing needs are fully met.

Treat animals appropriately when sickness is unavoidable

Vets need to work in partnership with farmers and pet owners to use diagnostic tools to best effect and to agree the most appropriate treatment plan so the animal is treated appropriately. They also need to collaborate closely with farmers and pet owners, acting as a trusted advisor and consultant, to ensure that recommended treatment plans are carried out as planned to ensure the optimal outcome.



For more information on NOAH's Blueprint for Animal Health, visit: www.noah.co.uk/campaigns/blueprint-animal-health

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