



## *Improving animal welfare:* improving animal health management

### The role of pet owners

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 third of our fact-sheet series, we're looking at the role of pet owners when it comes to upholding the three pillars of this approach.

#### Stop disease getting to the animal

Pet owners have a vital part to play when it comes to responsible pet healthcare. As the gatekeepers for their animals' health and wellbeing, it is vital for owners to seek expert, independent healthcare advice from veterinary and pet professionals to keep their pets happy and healthy all year round and to understand their pets' specific needs. These needs will range these from dietary requirements, to their living environment, to levels of exercise and even the company they need.

#### Equip animals to fight disease

For pet owners, this means ensuring that annual veterinary check-ups are scheduled and that important preventative treatments – from flea treatments and worming for pets such as dogs and cats, fly strike prevention for rabbits and guinea pigs from vets or other pet experts are regularly administered. Key vaccinations, as advised by their vet, should also be kept up to date.

#### Treat animals appropriately when disease is unavoidable

While it is critical that owners seek independent, expert advice when a pet falls ill, through a vet or another suitable pet expert, it is also vital to commit to treating your pet with any medications or products recommended by your vet or other pet expert and to doing so for the full treatment course just as we would with our own medicines. Always buy from a reputable source and only use medicines that are within their sell-by date.



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

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