

**Basic Animal Care**  
**ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE**  
**Information Sheet WS040/07**  
**Christopher Day - Veterinary Surgeon**

Copyright © 2007 AVMC  
Chinham House, Stanford in the Vale, Oxon SN7 8NQ UK  
01367 710324  
This is a page from [www.alternativevet.org](http://www.alternativevet.org)

**BASIC ANIMAL CARE**

In our natural desire to have animals to share our lives, we keep animals in all sorts of different ways. It is important to consider the basic duty of care that we have to them. The AVMC is always willing to discuss care and welfare issues.

**Basic requirements**

Whatever the species, always ensure provision of:

- Adequate, fresh and suitable [food](#)
- Clean, fresh water (some form of filtration is advisable, for tap water)
- Suitable and clean [bedding](#)
- Regular (and safe) disposal of excreta\*
- Regular inspection of faeces and urine, for abnormality
- Appropriate shelter and ventilation, with protection from draughts or other inclement conditions
- Appropriate regular exercise (see also [caging](#)) and the opportunity to express natural behaviour patterns
- Adequately rich environment, to allow expression of the behavioural and emotional needs of the species\*\*
- Daily careful observation
- Prompt attention for any injury or illness
- If veterinary help is required, ensure it is timely\*\*\*
- Regular checking of coat, teeth and feet (hooves or toenails)
- Regular grooming (appropriate to species)

## *Basic Animal Care - AVMC*

\* Rabbits produce two types of droppings, greenish fibrous pellets and dark, shiny, pasty pellets. They require access to the green, fibrous droppings, which they will re-consume, to provide them with vital nutrients.

\*\* On intensive farms, it is debatable whether this important provision can be fulfilled, despite what is said in the aspirational standards of some [farm assurance](#) schemes.

\*\*\* If veterinary help is needed, be sure that you understand what is being offered and enquire about all the possible options. This may include alternative medicine, for instance, instead of long-term drug usage or in place of some surgery. It may be necessary to seek a second opinion, if you feel that your own vet has insufficient experience in any particular field of species, disease or medicine. All veterinary surgeons are used to referring to 'specialists' in many fields, and are guided by the RCVS to aid clients in seeking a second opinion, so this should present no problem.

### [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#)

*To return to the web site of the AVMC, click the 'BACK' button of your browser or click [www.alternativevet.org](http://www.alternativevet.org)*

*This site is subject to frequent ongoing development and expansion - please revisit to view new material*

