

# The 'Five Freedoms' for Horse Health and Welfare

In a natural environment, horses are social, preferring to live and move in groups, foraging over large areas.

It is almost impossible to provide this type of environment for domesticated horses but the Animal Welfare Act 2006 states all animals are entitled to a minimum level of care.



**1** **Freedom from hunger and thirst:**  
Supply enough fresh water and the right type and amount of food to promote wellbeing.



**2** **Freedom from discomfort:**  
Provide the right type of environment, including shelter and somewhere comfortable to rest.



**3** **Freedom from pain, injury and disease:**  
Take steps to prevent illness or injury and make sure they are diagnosed and treated promptly by a Vet when needed.



**4** **Freedom from fear and distress:**  
Make sure they have appropriate care and handling.



**5** **Freedom to behave normally:**  
Provide enough space, proper facilities and the company of other horses or ponies.