

- 364b. Broom, D.M. 1998. Freedom. In *Encyclopedia of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare*, (Eds). M. Bekoff and C.A. Meaney, 60-61. Fitzroy Dearborn: London, Chicago.

### Freedom

Freedom means the possibility to determine actions and to make responses. An animal's welfare is affected by the extent to which the individual has freedom. Those freedoms that are given to an individual by others, for example, those given to a farm animal by its human keepers, tend to result in better welfare. The idea of providing animals with freedom carries with it a suggestion of moral obligation toward the animals. It assumes that the provider ought to give the animals certain opportunities and resources.

The idea of specifying the freedoms that should be given to animals was put forward in the Brambell Committee Report that was presented to the Government of the United Kingdom in 1965. These freedoms have been incorporated into the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Welfare Codes supplied to farmers and others for many years. The version of these detailed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1992 is listed here:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4. Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind
5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment that avoid mental suffering

These freedoms are described as being ideals that anyone with responsibility for animals should aim to provide, and it is further explained that animal welfare will be better if those who have care of livestock practice the following:

1. Caring and responsible planning and management
2. Skilled, knowledgeable, and conscientious stockmanship
3. Appropriate environmental design
4. Considerate handling and transportation
5. Humane slaughter (see TRANSPORTATION AND SLAUGHTER)

These lists identify the principal requirements of animals in relation to significant environmental factors to which they have to adapt, and the obligations of people toward the animals.

**Selected Bibliography.** Broom, D. M., Needs, Freedoms, and the Assessment of Welfare, *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 19 (1988): 384-386; Fraser, A. F., and D. M. Broom, *Farm Animal Behaviour and Welfare*, 3rd ed. (London: Baillière Tindall; New York: Saunders, 1990); Webster, J., *Animal Welfare: A Cool Eye towards Eden* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995).

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