

Scheme of Work – Animal Care

- To develop knowledge and understanding of how to care for small animals.
- To build responsibility, empathy and safe handling of animals through practical activities.
- To link animal care to broader topics such as maths, English, biology, geography, hygiene, and animal welfare legislation.
- To develop observation and practical care skills.

Term 1 Aims

- To understand how to behave around animals
- To understand how to keep people and animals safe and well
- To understand the **Five Animal Welfare Freedoms**.

Scheme of Work – Introduction Animal Care & The Five Freedoms

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
1	Introduction to Animal Welfare	- Understand animal welfare Health and safety for humans and animals Animal classification	- Teacher intro to welfare and health and safety - Matching activity: Freedoms & examples Animal classification Mammals/birds/fish/amphibians/ reptiles	student explanation of the 5 freedoms and health and safety rules
2	Freedom from Hunger & Thirst	- Learn the Five Animal Welfare Freedoms Understand diet & hydration needs - Learn species-specific diets	- Compare diets - carnivore/ herbivore/ omnivore (rabbits, dogs, chickens, reptiles) - Case study: lack of proper food feed animals	
3	Freedom from Discomfort	- Learn housing/environment needs - Understand how to provide comfort	- Good vs. poor housing examples - Practical: assess or set up enclosure	Enclosure design sheet
4	Freedom from Pain, Injury & Disease	- Spot signs of health vs. illness - Understand importance of checks & vet care	- Discussion: common health problems - Health checklist activity - Case study: "Spot the illness"	Completed health checklist + case study

5	Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour	- Recognise natural behaviours - Understand enrichment & socialisation	- Behaviour observation - Design enrichment toy or activity - Group discussion: importance of play	Behaviour observation worksheet + enrichment design
6	Freedom from Fear & Distress / Review	- Understand stress in animals - Review all 5 Freedoms - Reflect on responsible ownership	- Discussion: signs of stress - Scenario cards: "What would you do?" - Quiz game: "Five Freedoms Challenge" - Reflection: responsible ownership	Quiz results + reflection writing

Please note teaching may not take place in this order for some groups of students in order to manage the animal's welfare needs.

Term 2 Aims

- To develop knowledge and understanding of how to care for small animals, with a focus on rats.
- To learn about their behaviour, housing, diet, and welfare needs.
- To build responsibility and empathy through practical activities.
- To link animal care to broader topics such as biology, hygiene, and animal welfare legislation.

Scheme of Work – Animal Care: Caring for Rats

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
1	Introduction to Rats	- Understand the history of rats as pets The 5 Animal Welfare Needs - Apply them to rat care	- Quiz: Rat facts or fiction - Law: Animal Welfare Act (2006) - Case study: good vs poor care	quiz
2	Housing & Environment	- Know how to set up a rat enclosure - Understand importance of enrichment	- Cage setup /Clean rat cage - Design "dream rat cage" diagram - Discussion: safe vs. unsafe materials	Design rat enrichment items
3	Feeding & Nutrition	- Understand rat dietary needs	- Sorting activity: safe vs. unsafe foods - Group task: weekly feeding	Feeding plan worksheet

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
		- Identify safe vs. unsafe foods	plan - Rat food recipe make batch of food	
4	Health & Hygiene	- Recognise signs of good/poor health - Understand hygiene routines	- Rat health checklist (photos/diagrams) - cleaning routines, PPE	Write your own rat health checklist
5	Handling & Behaviour	- Handle rats safely - Recognise body language & behaviours	- Handling practical - rats in free roam -reading rat behaviour - Behaviour diary task	Behaviour diary reflection
6	Review	Demonstrate that you know how to care for rats	-annotate photos of students caring for rats produce a plan for how to care for rats for 1 day	

Scheme of Work – Animal Care: Caring for rabbits

Term 3 Aims

- To develop knowledge and understanding of how to care for small animals, with a focus on Rabbits
- To learn about their behaviour, housing, diet, and welfare needs.
- To build responsibility and empathy through practical activities.
- To link animal care to broader topics such as biology, hygiene, and animal welfare legislation.

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
1	Introduction to Rats	- Understand the history of rabbits as pets The 5 Animal Welfare Needs - Apply them to rabbit care	- Quiz: Rabbits facts or fiction - Case study: good vs poor care	quiz

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
2	Housing & Environment	- Know how to set up a rabbit enclosure - Understand importance of enrichment	- Cage setup /Clean rabbits cage - Design “dream rabbit cage” diagram - Discussion: safe vs. unsafe materials	Design rabbit enrichment items
3	Feeding & Nutrition	- Understand rabbit dietary needs - Identify safe vs. unsafe foods	- Sorting activity: safe vs. unsafe foods rabbit Food pyramid - Group task: weekly feeding plan	Write Feeding plan
4	Health & Hygiene	- Recognise signs of good/poor health - Understand hygiene routines Understand the health needs of rabbits Vaccinations	- Rabbit health checklist (photos/diagrams) - cleaning routines, PPE Carry out health checks on Rabbits	Write your own rabbit health checklist
5	Handling & Behaviour	- Handle rabbits safely - Recognise body language & behaviours	- Handling practical – rabbits in free roam -observing and understanding rabbit behaviour - Behaviour diary task	Behaviour diary Reflection- do rabbits make good pets
6	Review	Demonstrate that you know how to care for rabbits	-annotate photos of students caring for rabbits produce a plan for how to care for rabbits for 1 day	

Scheme of Work – Animal Care: Caring for Gerbils

Term 4 Aims

- To develop knowledge and understanding of how to care for small animals, with a focus on Gerbils
- To learn about their behaviour, housing, diet, and welfare needs.
- To build responsibility and empathy through practical activities.

- To link animal care to broader topics such as biology, hygiene, and animal welfare legislation.

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
1	Introduction to Rats	- Understand the history of Gerbils as pets and their natural environment The 5 Animal Welfare Needs - Apply them to Gerbil care	- Quiz: Gerbil facts or fiction - Case study: good vs poor care	quiz
2	Housing & Environment	- Know how to set up a Gerbils enclosure - Understand importance of enrichment	- Cage setup /Clean Gerbils cage - Design “dream Gerbil cage” diagram - Discussion: safe vs. unsafe materials	Design Gerbils enrichment items
3	Feeding & Nutrition	- Understand Gerbil dietary needs - Identify safe vs. unsafe foods	- Sorting activity: safe vs. unsafe foods - Group task: weekly feeding plan	Write Feeding plan
4	Health & Hygiene	- Recognise signs of good/poor health - Understand hygiene routines	- Gerbil health checklist (photos/diagrams) - cleaning routines, PPE Carry out health checks on Gerbils	Write your own Gerbils health checklist
5	Handling & Behaviour	- Handle Gerbils safely - Recognise body language & behaviours	- Handling practical – -reading Gerbil behaviour - Behaviour diary task	Behaviour diary Reflection- do Gerbils make good pets
6	Review	Demonstrate that you know how to care for Gerbils	-annotate photos of students caring for Gerbils produce a plan for how to care for gerbils for 1 day	

Scheme of Work – Animal Care: Caring for chickens

Term 5 Aims

- To develop knowledge and understanding of how to care for animals, with a focus on Chickens
- To learn about their behaviour, housing, diet, and welfare needs.

- To build responsibility and empathy through practical activities.
- To link animal care to broader topics such as biology, hygiene, and animal welfare legislation.
- To understand the legislation related to keeping chickens

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
1	Introduction to Chickens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the history of Chicken keeping The 5 Animal Welfare Needs - Apply them to Chicken care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz: Chicken facts or fiction - Case study: good vs poor care Free range vs Caged chickens vs barn chickens 	quiz
2	Housing & Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Know how to set up a Chicken enclosure - Understand importance of enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cage setup /Clean chickens - Design “dream chicken run” diagram - Discussion: safe vs. unsafe materials 	Design chicken enrichment items
3	Feeding & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand chickens dietary needs - Identify safe vs. unsafe foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sorting activity: safe vs. unsafe foods Legislations regarding keeping chickens (Food) - Group task: weekly feeding plan 	Write Feeding plan
4	Health & Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognise signs of good/poor health - Understand hygiene routines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chicken health checklist (photos/diagrams) - cleaning routines, PPE Carry out health checks on chickens Legislations regarding keeping chickens (bird flu) 	Write your own Chicken health checklist
5	Handling & Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handle chickens safely - Recognise body language & behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handling practical – -reading chickens behaviour - Behaviour diary task Cockerels yes or no ? 	Reflection- do Chickens make good pets
6	Review	Demonstrate that you know how to care for chickens	-annotate photos of students caring for chickens	

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
			produce a plan for how to care for Chickens for 1 day	

Scheme of Work – Caring for Bearded Dragons

Term 6 Aims

- To develop knowledge and understanding of how to care for reptiles, with a focus on bearded dragons
- To learn about their behaviour, housing, diet, and welfare needs.
- To build responsibility and empathy through practical activities.
- To link animal care to broader topics such as biology, hygiene, and animal welfare legislation.

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
1	Introduction to Bearded Dragons	- Understand natural habitat & origins - Recognise key features & behaviours	- Fact or Myth quiz - Label diagram of bearded dragon	Completed diagram + Q&A
2	Housing & Environment	- Know correct housing setup - Understand importance of heat, UV, enrichment	- Vivarium setup - Student design “ideal enclosure” (diagram) - Discussion: safe vs. unsafe substrates	Enclosure design worksheet
3	Feeding & Nutrition	- Learn dietary requirements - Identify safe vs. unsafe foods - Plan feeding routine	- Sorting game: safe vs. unsafe foods - Create 1-week feeding plan - (Optional) video of feeding	Feeding plan worksheet
4	Handling & Behaviour	- Learn safe handling methods - Recognise body language & behaviours	- Handling practical Observation task	Behaviour observation sheet
5	Health & Welfare	- Recognise signs of health vs. illness - Understand hygiene & care routines	- Health checklist activity - Case study: spotting illness	Health checklist + case study worksheet

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Content & Activities	Assessment
			- Discussion: what to do if sick	
6	Responsibility, Review & Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand responsibilities of ownership - Consolidate knowledge - Present learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz: "Bearded Dragon Care Challenge" 	Quiz + project presentation