



# ANIMAL HEALTH

NEW (EXPANDED) EDITION



BY THE STAFF OF ACS DISTANCE EDUCATION

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# CREDITS

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# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

For the past 10,000 years, people all over the world have domesticated animals for various purposes. Some animals such as dogs and cats were domesticated to assist humans in hunting, rodent control and protection. Livestock animals such as cows and sheep were kept to provide products such as meat, wool or milk or even kept as working animals. In the more modern world, we now keep a variety of animals as pets for companionship and for human assistance. Humans have also created exhibitions of animals in zoos which has greatly changed over time to helping the conservation of rapidly decreasing species. No matter what the reason, animals and humans have been connected over an extended period of time.

Optimum health is essential for the wellbeing and longevity of all animals. It is the responsibility of animal owners or carers to ensure the welfare of the animals within their care are met. As part of the general care of animals, we need to be able to identify diseases. The first step in recognising diseases in animals is to understand when an animal is unwell. This generally requires a number of factors: information on the history of the animal, a physical health check, understanding the normal behaviour of the animal, observing the species and specialized testing to identify the cause of the illness.

This ebook will help you to recognise some signs of ill health in animals. Identifying these signs can then lead to the most suitable method of treatment. It will guide you on ways in which prevention is greater, and ways to reduce the risks of disease or illnesses. It also provides information on animals affected by particular diseases as well as treatments available to treat particular health problems. Treatment options provided in this ebook may either be traditional or natural where available.





# CONSIDERING ANIMAL ETHICS

Ethics comes from the Greek word ‘ethos’ meaning: custom, habit, character, moral nature. It might simply be described as the study of “how we should act and why”. Animal ethics is the branch of ethics that reflects on our moral decisions as to what is acceptable and unacceptable in our utilisation of animals. There are many aspects of “animal ethics” to consider when making moral decisions including the psychology and significance of animals’ minds; the moral status of animals and significance of different species; issues associated with animal products, farm animals, pets, zoos, hunting, animals for entertainment, safety testing on animals, and environmental ethics. Additional influences on our moral decisions on the use of animals also depends on what we have been taught, the viewpoints of our society or religion, customary traditions etc.



## Moral Status of Animals

Humans use animals in such a large variety of ways that anyone with a conscience finds it difficult to make a self-evident decision on which uses of animals are acceptable and which are unacceptable. As a result, it is often difficult for people to deliver consistent, invariable moral views when it comes to animal ethics.

The philosophy of the moral standing of animals is complex but in simple terms it may be categorised into three generic groups: Indirect theories; direct but unequal theories and moral equality theories.



## Indirect Theories

Indirect theories deny animals having moral status, or at best, the moral status of animals is deemed unequal to humans, given that they do not experience consciousness, rationality or autonomy. Under these theories, animals only remain unharmed if, by doing so, it causes harm to the morality of the person.

## Direct but Unequal Theories

Direct but unequal theories give some regard to the moral status of animals based on the belief that the sentience