

Key Area 4—Animal Welfare

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Costs, benefits and ethics

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Improving the welfare of domesticated animals involves an **expensive initial payment** from the farmer.

However, this has **long-term benefits** including:

- increased growth of animals
- increased success rate of breeding
- higher quality end products



For example;

Free range requires more land and is more **labour intensive** but can be sold at a **higher price** and animals have a **better quality of life**.

Intensive farming is less **ethical** than free range farming due to **poorer animal welfare** but is often more **cost effective**, generating higher profit as costs are **low**.

Behavioural Indicators of Poor Welfare

Displays of behaviour can indicate poor welfare and wellbeing of domesticated animals.

The behaviour indicators that they may display are;

- Stereotypy—repetitive movement eg. Pacing up and down a cage
- Misdirected behaviour—behaviour directed at self eg. Plucking out feathers, knowing on solid objects, hyperaggression.
- Failure in sexual or parental behaviour—not able to produce offspring or not looking after young.
- Altered levels of activity eg. Sleeping all day.