Rabbit welfare needs matrix

Welfare need

RED

Action needed











- Housing too small
- No exercise run
- Not cleaned often enough

BCS of 1 or 5 and weight

Water not always available

Behaviour causing serious

Not sociable and difficult

No objects to encourage

problem for owner

normal behaviours

to handle

incorrect

Diet unsuitable

Inappropriate treats

(type or amount)

• Never given extra protection from heat or cold

AMBER

Room to improve

- Suitably sized housing
- Exercise run not permanently accessible or not big enough
- More cleaning required
- Sometimes given extra protection in heat or cold
- BCS of 2 or 4 and weight not quite correct
- Diet not well balanced between hay, nuggets and greens
- Fed muesli instead of nuggets
- Frequently given treats
- Some problem behaviour that owner would like to change
- Sociable but not happy being handled
- Not many objects to allow normal behaviours
- Kept on own but with regular interaction with trusted person
- Lives with another rabbit, but one or both unneutered
- Not neutered
- Evidence of parasites
- Teeth starting to become overgrown
- Vaccinations overdue by less than 6 months
- Bottom sometimes checked in warm weather

GREEN Great job!

- Suitably sized and secure housing
- Constant access to suitably sized run
- Ideal cleaning routine
- Always given extra protection from heat or cold
- BCS and weight correct
- Fed a suitable, balanced diet of hay, nuggets and greens
- Water always available, changed daily
- Minimal and healthy treats
- Sociable and relaxed when handled
- Objects given and rotated to allow normal behaviours
- Kept in pair/small neutered group of same species
- Good provisions made if owner away

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- Overall health good
- Neutered
- No evidence of parasites
- Healthy teethVaccinated
- Bottom checked daily in warm weather



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- Kept on own with no regular interaction with trusted person
- Kept with other species e.g. guinea pigs
- No provisions made if owner away – left in house on own

Untreated health problems

- Not vaccinated or has lapsed
- Not neutered and kept in mixed group
- Infestation of parasites
- Teeth overgrown and causing problems
- Bottom unchecked

BCS = Body Condition Score

pdesa My Rabbit MOT



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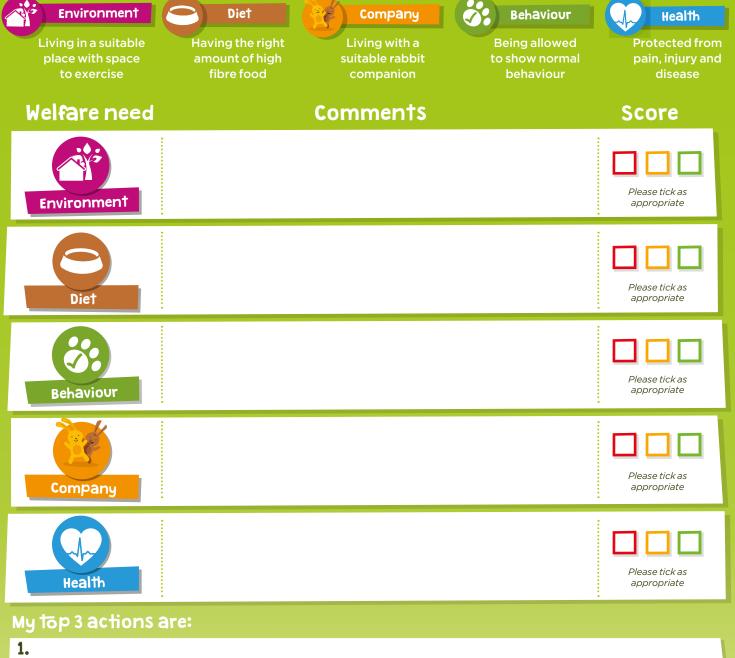
Client's Name:

_ Rabbit's Name:

Vet/Vet Nurse Name:_____

Date of MOT:

Rabbits have 5 key welfare needs that must be me to keep them happy and healthy:





pdsa (RSPC/

wood

SCOTTISH SPCA