

## Teacher notes

The story of Pudding, while fictional, is one that we experience regularly at Bransby Horses. Much of our external welfare team's time is spent working with owners that are struggling with caring for their horses, ponies, donkeys or mules. Sometimes this may result in a rescue but often we spend time educating owners on how to better care for their animals.

**In 2019, our external welfare team:**  
**Received welfare calls : 226**  
**Saw new equines: 746**  
**Saw repeat equines: 630**

In 2019, we rescued 97 equines and had a total of 142 intakes. Not only do we work tirelessly to care for the 330 horses, ponies, donkeys and mules we have on site but we continue to support the 550 fostered equines we have up and down the country that we will keep in our ownership as well as any owners that have been brought to our attention through collaborative with other organisations such as the RSPCA, Blue Cross and Lincolnshire Police.

This document covers **The Five Animal Welfare Needs** (which are detailed in The Animal Welfare Act 2006), and how they relate to the care of all animals such as horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. This can be used in conjunction with the

pudding story to talk about the need to understand **The Five Animal Welfare Needs**, and how they relate to responsible pet ownership. There is a short questions and answers following the main text.

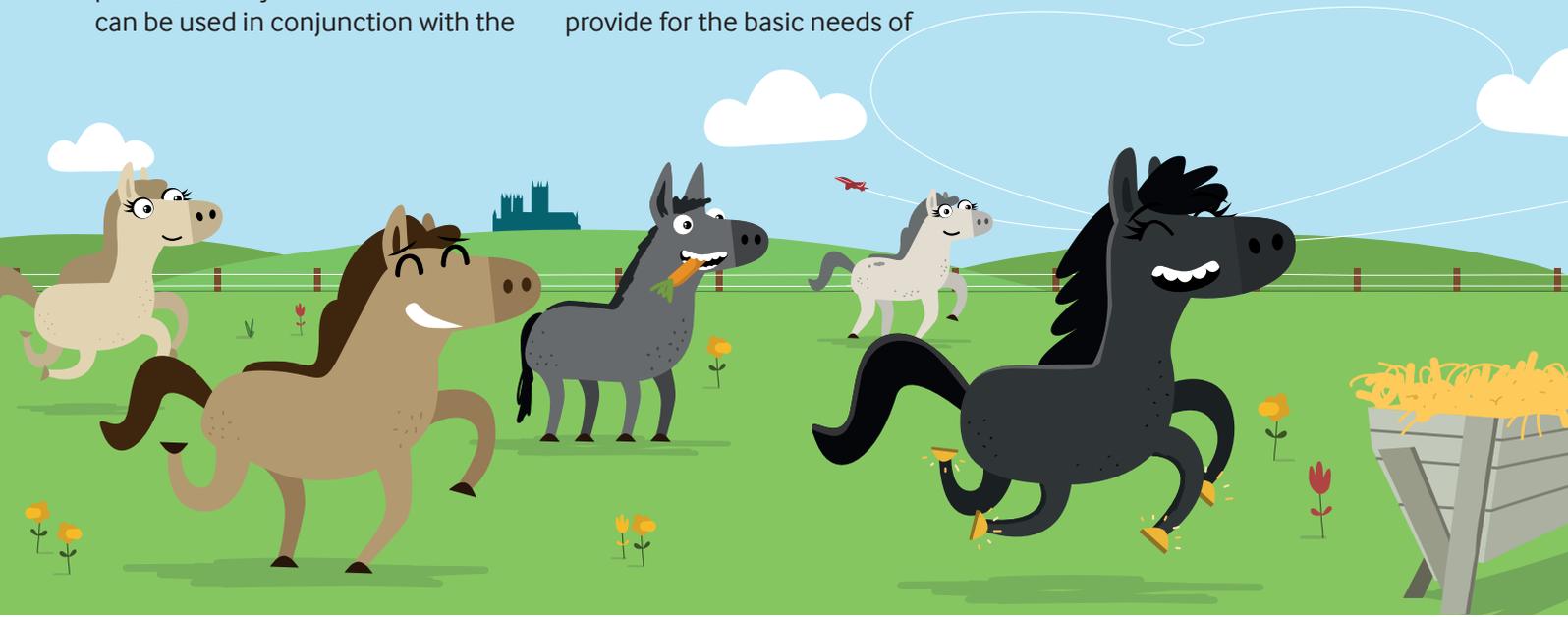
**Curriculum links:**  
**English (reading)**  
• Word reading  
• Comprehension

**English (writing)**  
• Transcription  
• Composition  
• Articulating ideas and structuring them in writing.

**Art and Design (if completing poster task or colouring sheets)**  
• Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences.  
• To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting using the downloadable resources we have made available.

**Science**  
• Explore and compare the difference between things that are living.  
• Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of

different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.  
• Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat.



## The Five Welfare Needs

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 is a piece of legislation and a code of practice to help protect the welfare of pets and domestic animals. The legislation includes **the Five Welfare Needs**, the main purpose of which is to provide guidance of an owner's responsibility towards their pet. Below, we look at **the Five Welfare Needs**, and how they can be put into practice:

### Need for a suitable environment

The environment is the pets housing. Horses, ponies, donkeys and mules need lots of space with access to lots of good grass. They also need somewhere to shelter from the heat in summer and a dry covered area to keep them protected from the wind, rain and snow and of course lots of mud during the winter, this could be a good quality field shelter or stable. They also need access to plenty of forage and water. You must also consider purchasing rugs and other items to help keep them warm and dry. A cold horse can lose weight and condition very quickly.

### Need for a suitable diet

All equines like to eat little and often so need access to good grass, hay

and any additional feed that they may need depending on their activity. Also equally important is the need to have regular access to water to keep them healthy. Troughs and buckets need to be kept clean to allow for good quality water. Due to their size, you can imagine that they need quite a lot of water a day. This will vary depending on the individual horse but can range from 25-50 litres per day for an average size adult horse. We are meant to drink around 2 litres a day!

### Need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns

The horse evolved as a herd animal and in a natural state they would spend 16-20 hours a day grazing and browsing for forage. As a result, they have a strong behavioural need to by providing them lots of grazing and forage. Also, In the wild, horses would travel long distances while searching for more food. Horses require adequate exercise, or freedom to exercise and this will require time and effort from their owner or keeper.

### Need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals

Horses are herd animals and in the

wild would live in relatively stable social groups. They should be able to socialise with other horses. If this is not possible then it may be sufficient to pair them with other animals. Our rehoming team will always ensure that our equines are fostered where other horses will be to keep them company. Donkeys are particularly tricky and can become quite poorly if they become separated from a companion or friend. The team at Bransby Horses spend time ensuring that all of the donkeys are bonded well together.

### Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease covers a lot of the day-to-day care of any pet. Pet owners need to ensure they are feeding the appropriate diet, providing a suitable environment, providing suitable companions for your pet, and ensuring suitable preventative measures are taken to reduce the risk of illness. If pet owners do not comply to The Animal Welfare Act 2006, and The Five Animal Welfare Needs, they can be prosecuted and convicted of animal cruelty. Conviction could result in a prison sentence or a fine.



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