



Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics - Module Overview

DIPAW204

Overview of the module

In this module you will explore the question “What is animal welfare and why does it matter?”. You will do this through learning about the history of animal welfare in different parts of the world, and discussing different views of animal welfare and the impact animal welfare has on humans. Recognizing what a large role animals play in human life by exploring our reliance on them for our own well-being, such as for food, medical advances, clothing, sport, power/energy, protection and pleasure, we can work toward an understanding of humane ethics and improving animal welfare. Due to the relationship between human and animal, developing higher standards of animal welfare is a priority globally and one which needs to be approached in a credible, objective, scientific way.

Key questions explored in the module

- What is animal welfare and how do we measure it?
- What factors influence animal welfare views (such as cultural, political, economic and social factors)?
- Can animal welfare science support improved ethical practices and choices?
- What ethical relationship should humans have with animals? (Humane ethics in relation to animals used as a commodity, food source, entertainment etc.)
- What are the different behavioural needs of a variety of animal species and how does this impact animal welfare? (Animal groups such as farmed animals, cats, dogs, and captive wildlife)

Skills

This module will help you improve your English language skills with a special emphasis on:

- speaking about topics from different viewpoints (e.g. ethical, scientific, legal)
- doing research and finding reliable sources
- understanding more complex scientific vocabulary and grammar and using these effectively in writing
- exploring different viewpoints in English through a cultural lens

Performance Tasks

Throughout this module you will:

- distinguish, through research and discussion, the difference between the science of animal welfare through evidence and different ethical points of view
- choose an area of animal welfare and humane ethics by identifying an issue or a problem to explore through research, run and participate in a seminar to propose a solution or an opportunity for change
- participate in discussions and debates using knowledge gained during the module, understanding speaking from an emotional mindset and recognizing different viewpoints

