



10. The care and welfare of PAT dogs & PAT cats on Pets As Therapy visits

The Five Freedoms

What welfare problems might PAT dogs & cats be exposed to?

- A unique set of potential welfare issues related to undertaking therapeutic visits with dogs and cats
- Risks from the environment, the people and the interactions or tasks that the animal encounters

The new Animal Welfare Act

- Came into force in April 2007
- Replaces old-fashioned and outdated legislation
- Designed to prevent possible neglect and abuse, so is proactive, rather than reactive
- Assigns a "duty of care" to all pet owners to ensure that their pet's basic needs are met
- Based upon the Five Freedoms

Other fact-sheets available

- Conducting a Pets As Therapy visit - the welfare of your PAT dog or cat
- Care and welfare of PAT dogs and cats on visits [1] & [2]
- MRSA

What are the "Five Freedoms?"

Designed in 1965, they were originally a framework for assessing farm animal welfare

Freedom from.....

- Pain, injury & disease
- Discomfort
- Fear & distress
- Hunger & thirst

Freedom to.....

- Express normal patterns of behaviour

These "freedoms" could easily be applied to Pets As Therapy visiting too

For further information, or if you have any animal welfare concerns or questions, please contact Alison Reynolds on 01524 380437 or areynolds@petsastherapy.org