

## **Guide to welfare assessment scoring – important points to remember**

Panel members are asked to use their expert judgement to score each of the welfare Criteria on a 0-100 scale for the specified production system/method.

**A score of zero denotes extreme suffering for the animal whereas 100 denotes the highest achievable welfare possible.**

You should consider the welfare implications, **including both animals' freedom from negative physical and mental (including emotional) states and opportunities for animals in relation to positive physical and mental (including emotional) states and subjective experiences**, associated with each of the welfare Criteria descriptions.

Consider the welfare implications for the population of animals within the defined production system.

Consider the welfare of individual animals within the animal population impacted as well as animal groups. For example, you may wish to think about an 'average' animal experience in a generally well-managed unit/farm and animals' experiences in less-well or poorly managed units.

Consider the **lifetime of the animals within the system** under consideration and the **overall birth to slaughter experience of animals** affected.

**Assume that the policy** scenario described **has been fully implemented** (even if in reality the policy may take years to fully implement).

**Keep the full welfare Criteria description in mind when you are scoring each Criteria**

## **Welfare Criteria**

1. Provision and access to food. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of appropriate foodstuffs for health and wellbeing.
2. Provision and access to water. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of water for health and wellbeing.
3. Animals should have comfort when resting.
4. Animals should have thermal comfort being neither too hot nor too cold.
5. Animals should have sufficient space to move freely.
6. Animals should be free from injuries and disorders (such as skin conditions, lameness, bone fractures etc).
7. Animals should be free from disease, including metabolic conditions, with high standards of health care and hygiene.
8. Animals should not suffer pain - for example as a result of poor management, handling, surgical or other procedures, slaughter etc.
9. Animals should be able to express normal, non-harmful social behaviours (such as grooming and social bonding).
10. Animals should be able to express other normal behaviours (e.g. foraging, exploring).
11. Animals should be handled well with positive and not negative animal-human relationships.
12. Additional aspects not already adequately covered above in relation to the balance between positive and negative affective states for animals.