

Farm and Companion Animal Welfare

Xavier Manteca¹

ABSTRACT

The class has two objectives: (1) explain the concept of animal welfare and (2) discuss some of the principle problems of farm and companion animal welfare. Although there are many definitions of animal welfare, the majority coincide on the concept that animal welfare includes three aspects: the biological functioning of the organism, the emotions of the animal and the possibility of expressing the normal behavior of the species. The first aspect includes elements such as health, nutrition and physical and thermal comfort. The second aspect includes the absence of negative affective states such as pain, fear, anxiety and distress. More recently, many authors have highlighted the importance that the animal also experience positive emotions. Finally, the third aspect supposes the possibility for the animal to be able to demonstrate some behaviors that are especially relevant behaviors (¿) which are traditionally known as *behavioral necessities*(?).

These three aspects are brought together in the principle known as the five freedoms, proposed in its current version by the Farm Animal Welfare Council of the United Kingdom in the 1990's. In the class, utilizing the principle of the five freedoms, some problems of production and companion animal welfare will be discussed. More concretely, specifically in reference to production animals, the problems associated

¹ Doctor in Veterinary Medicine from the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB) and holds a Masters in applied animal behavior and animal welfare from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland). Currently he is a full professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the UAB, where he teaches classes in etiology and animal welfare

with some intensive forms of production which restrain the movement capacity of animals and the expression of their normal behavior will be examined. At the same time, European legislation on the welfare of pigs, feed chickens and laying hens will be examined and the interaction between the housing system and the handling of these animals will be emphasized. With regards to production animals, problems associated with feeding and pain will be discussed. Finally, the relationship that exists between the behavioral problems of animals and their welfare will be discussed.