

# Why are not all animals included in the Animal Welfare Act?

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## What is the Animal Welfare Act?

The Animal Welfare Act is Norway's law protecting various animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, certain crustaceans, cephalopods, and honeybees, to ensure their welfare.



## What is «Animal welfare»?

This is not an easy question to answer. Is it to have a good physical health? Is it to live in a natural habitat? Is it have a good mental health?

Maybe it should be a mix!

Figure 1, tries to illustrate connections between three different understandings of animal welfare.

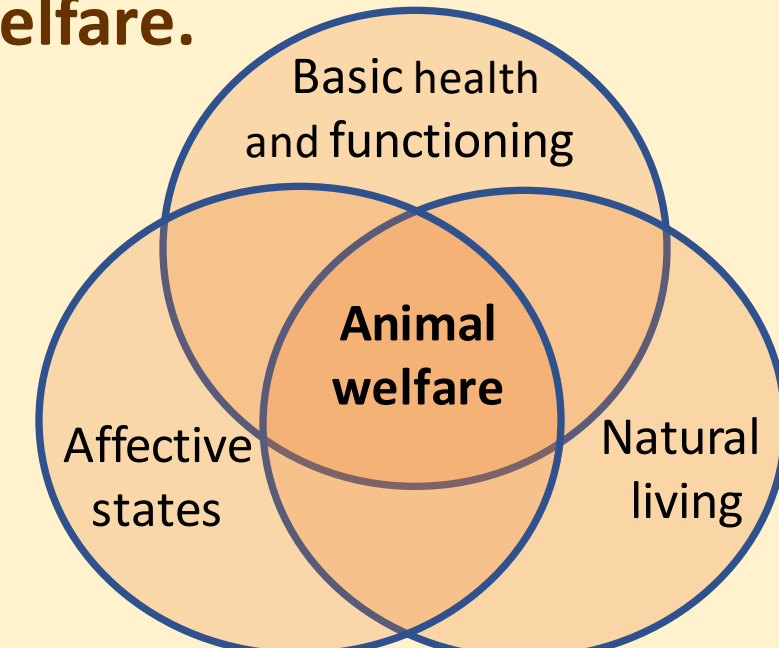
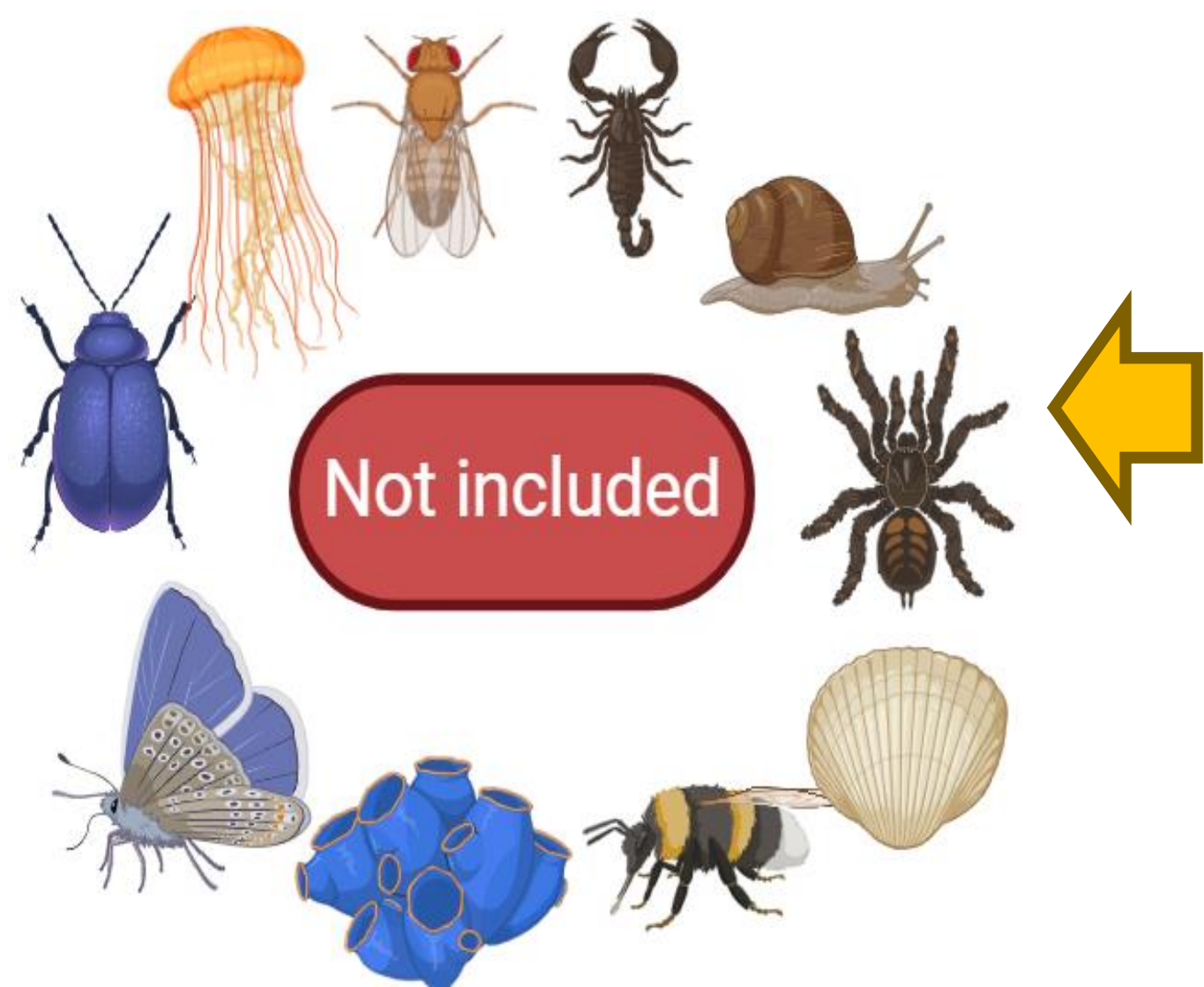


Figure 1: A diagram that brings together three concepts of animal welfare, basic health and functioning in the top circle, affective states, in the circle to the left, and natural living in the circle to the right. The figure is taken from Fraser, D. (2008). "Understanding animal welfare." Acta Vet. Scand. 50, S1.

## But...

Not all animals are included, raising questions about distinctions between protected animals, such as honeybees, and unprotected ones, like bumblebees. Do all animals have intrinsic value as stated in the Animal Welfare Act?



## Some suggestions to why some animals are included while others are not:

### Domestication:

- Relationships
- Livestock, pets
- Cultural attitudes

### The animal's role for humans:

- Aesthetics
- Feelings towards the animal

### Ethical standing:

- Suffering capacity
- Cognitive abilities
- Consciousness?
- Anthropocentrism?

### Political discussion:

- Economical value
- Ease of regulation
- Criticism and animal rights (low political influence)

### Economical value:

- Profitability in the food industry together with consumers choice

### Scientific standpoints:

- Cognitive, physiological and physical research

"Do you agree, or do you believe more animals should receive welfare protection? What are the implications of excluding certain animals from the welfare act?"

Humans get punished for treating me bad.

What about me!?

