

# Everyday objects (answers) (1)

## Fur coat

- The farming and trapping of fur-bearing animals are practices that cause considerable suffering.
- Fur farming was banned in the UK from 2003, due to ethical and moral reasons, and based on animal welfare concerns.
- Fur farming is also banned in the following places in the EU – the Netherlands (mink was banned in June 2010), Austria, Croatia (currently a 10-year phase-out period).
- Fur farming (of foxes as well as mink) is not banned in the Republic of Ireland, but in 2009 the government agreed to a three-year phase out.
- Some countries have passed legislation increasing required animal welfare provision for certain species – Italy for mink and Sweden for foxes for example – that will probably make farming of those species no longer economically viable. This is already the case in Switzerland.
- Each year the fur industry kills over 50 million animals for fashion; this does not include rabbits.

## Leaflet

- Some people like to visit animal venues during their leisure time.
- Animals need to be kept in a way that is appropriate to the normal biological requirements of their species. For example, in sufficient space that contains the necessary shelter, cover and stimulus to prevent distress or suffering.
- Uncontrolled handling and feeding, a lack of adequate supervision and excessive disturbance are potential welfare issues in pet corners and animal encounter areas.

# Everyday objects (answers) (2)

## Tuna

- Some people choose to eat fish as part of their diet.
- Bycatch – fish such as tuna – are caught by towing nets the size of football pitches behind trawler boats. Dolphins, porpoises and even small whales can get trapped, entangled or injured in the fishing nets. These species are mammals and need to return to the ocean surface to breathe. When caught, they hold their breath and eventually die from a lack of oxygen. They also suffer horrific injuries as a result of struggling to free themselves from the net.
- Bycatch can also pose a significant threat to the welfare and conservation of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises). It is estimated that every year over 300,000 cetaceans are killed worldwide as a result of bycatch. Alternative methods, such as long lining, may avoid a risk to animals such as dolphins, but pose a risk to birds such as albatrosses. Fishing methods may be adapted to reduce the risks.

## Milk

- Product from an animal – some people may drink this or eat it as an ingredient in other products.

## Food packet

- Contains a product from an animal.
- Many supermarket products – such as quiches – still contain eggs produced by hens kept in cages.
- If a product contains free-range eggs, this will often be mentioned on the packaging.

## Jeans

- Most clothing has been dyed to achieve its required colour during the manufacturing process. The dyes used may have been tested on animals. This is part of the process for checking that they are safe for human use.

# Everyday objects (answers) (3)

## Packaging from a box of painkillers

- Painkillers and other medicines are developed through research on animals. They will have been tested on animals at some stage to test their effectiveness, to find out the recommended dose that should be prescribed and to check for any side effects.

## Pet water bottle

- Pets need access to fresh water to remain healthy.
- Following the Animal Welfare Act 2006, pet owners are now legally obliged to care for their pet properly – which most owners already do – and this includes providing fresh, clean water.

## Fat balls for wild birds

- In winter, birds may have difficulty finding food in the wild such as berries, insects, seeds, worms and fruit, so an extra meal from either your kitchen or some commercially available bird food will help keep them going. October is a good time to start putting food out for birds. During a long, dry summer extra food will be appreciated as well.

## Shower gel

- The use of animals to test cosmetics or their ingredients is now banned in the European Union. Cosmetic products include those designed to “clean, perfume and protect the body” e.g. soaps, bath and shower gels, deodorants and antiperspirants, hair care products (shampoos, conditioners, sprays and colourants), shaving creams, foams and lotions, toothpaste and mouthwash, sun creams, anti-wrinkle products, face packs and hand lotions, as well as after-shaves and perfumes.
- Over 5 billion cosmetic products are sold every year to some 380 million consumers in the European Union. EU laws require that all cosmetics are safe for people to use. Substances that go to make up these products are tested to see whether they are likely to harm people, or damage the environment when they are disposed of. Many of the tests that have traditionally been used involve animals.

# Everyday objects (answers) (4)

## Fishing line or hook

- Angling has grown steadily in popularity throughout England and Wales with a record of 1.5 million angling licences being sold in 2009. Anglers should make sure that they take unwanted fishing line home with them and cut it into small pieces before putting it in the bin as it can get caught around a bird's wings, neck and beak.
- Fishing hooks can cut into skin and muscle. Discarded fishing hooks should be wrapped in newspaper before putting them in a bin.

## Dog lead

- Exercise is important for dogs and the RSPCA recommends that you should provide your dog with access to a suitable place where it can exercise at least once a day. A suitable place is somewhere that it can explore, play and meet other dogs if appropriate.
- Owning a dog can motivate people to exercise by encouraging regular walking. A study in Australia found that dog owners who walked their dog were more likely to achieve 150 minutes of physical activity a week than owners who did not walk with their dog.

## Other facts worth knowing

- More than one million animals were used to test the safety of chemicals in the European Union (EU) during 2005.
- Examples of tests include using rabbits to assess whether a chemical may cause irritation to the skin, or studying whether exposing rats and mice to a chemical over their whole lifetime causes cancer.
- The RSPCA promotes the development and use of methods that avoid or replace animal use in experiments.