

# Everyday objects – answers (1)

## Plastic carrier bag

- Animals may climb inside plastic bags and suffocate, or eat them and choke. Unfortunately, these bags can remain intact after being swallowed, which means that a single bag can cause the death of more than one animal.

## Empty cat/dog food can

- Some people choose to keep cats/dogs as pets.
- Small animals such as hedgehogs may get their heads trapped inside cans – and a half-open lid can cut animals.

## Picture of someone wearing a 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 (fox and chinchilla), Austria, Croatia (currently\* in 10-year phase-out period) and Lander in Germany.
- Mink farming is not banned in Ireland.
- The worldwide fur industry killed more than 55 million animals in 2005 for their fur.

## Leaflet advertising a venue that keeps animals, e.g. zoo, aquarium, urban farm

- 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 environmental 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.



## Empty slug pellet container

- Kills slugs.
- Can kill other animals that have eaten the poisoned slugs.
- The chemicals in slug pellets will have been tested on animals to check their effect on humans, other animals and the environment.

\*Information correct as of 2008.

# Everyday objects – answers (2)

## **Tin of 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 can also suffer horrific injuries as a result of struggling to free themselves from the net.
- Bycatch can pose a significant threat to the welfare and conservation of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises). In south-west England, an estimated 2,000 porpoises die as a result of bycatch each year. 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 carton/container**

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

## **Packaging from a food product that contains eggs as an ingredient, e.g. cake, ice cream**

- Contains a product from an animal.
- The eggs may be produced by hens kept in cages.

## **Item of clothing, e.g. pair of 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.

## **Packaging from a food product that contains food additives**

- The food additives will have been tested on animals. This is part of the process for checking that they are safe for human consumption.

## **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.

## **Wormer for dogs, cats or horses**

- These products and/or their ingredients are developed through research on animals and 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.



RADIUS IMAGES/JUPITER IMAGES

## Fur coat

There are welfare concerns surrounding the production of fur, both from farmed and trapped wild animals. Most fur derives from wild animals that are farmed for their fur in small, barren cages where they are denied the opportunity to perform most natural behaviours. Some high-value fur, sold illegally, comes from species that are endangered in the wild, and therefore carries an additional cost

