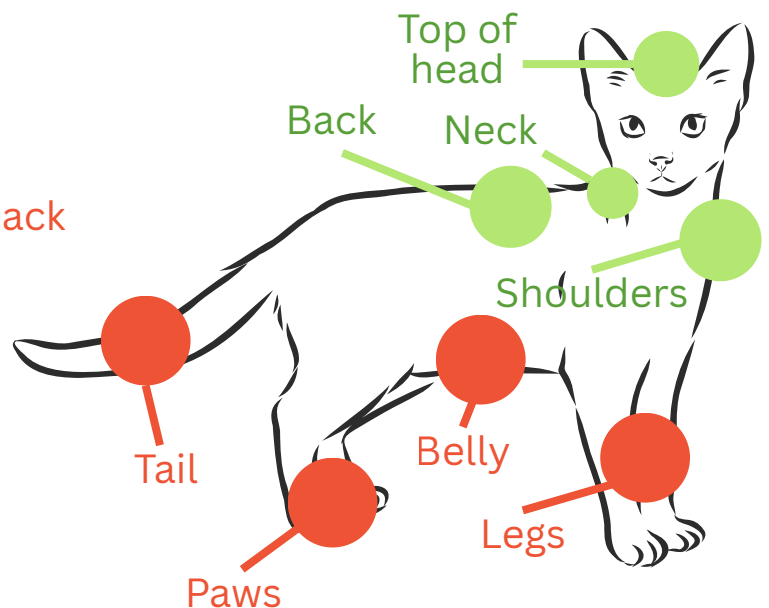
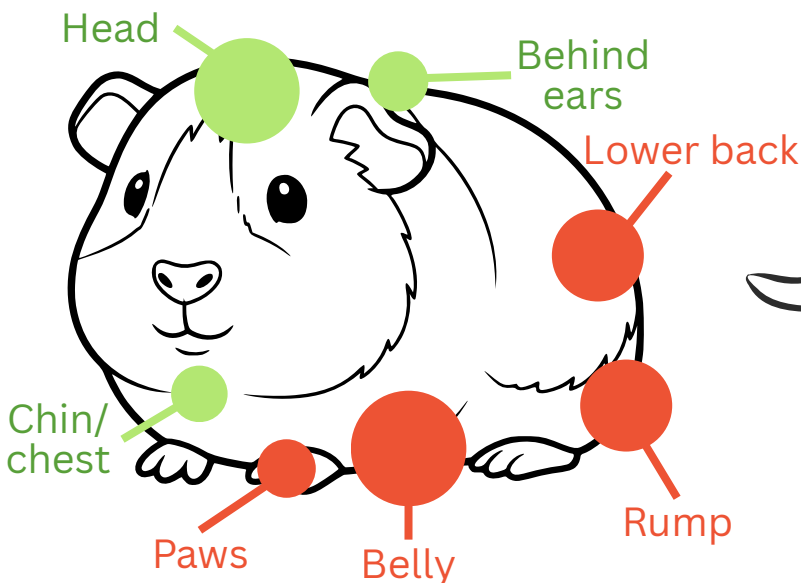
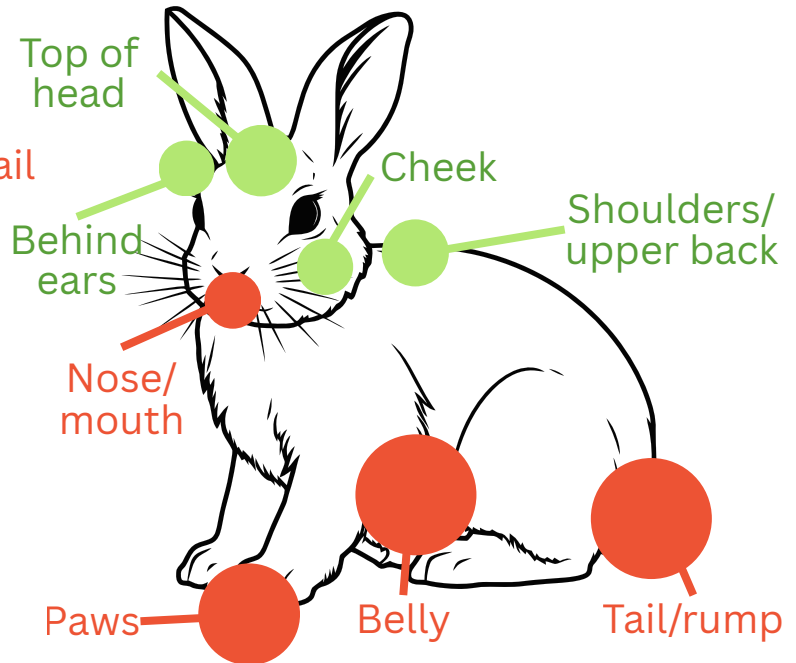
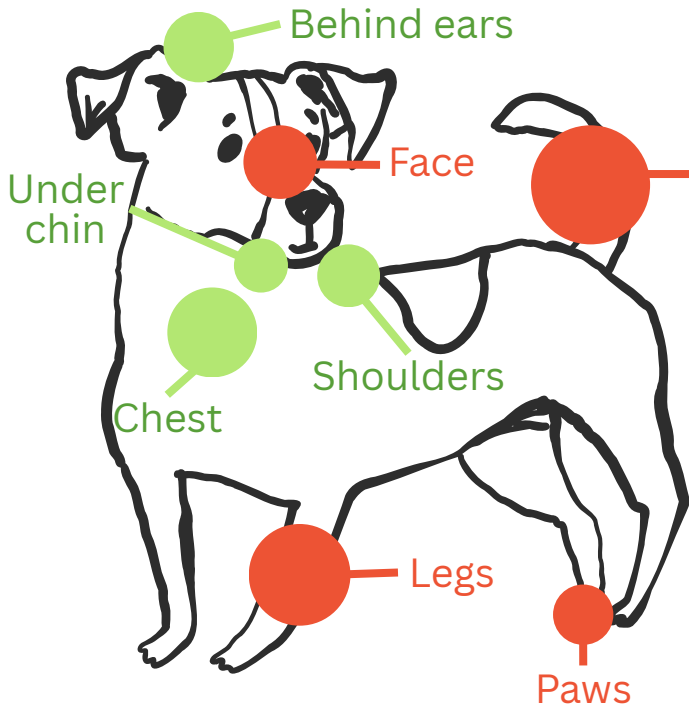


Pet interactions

Answer sheet

Every pet is different, so these are just general guidelines. In general, shoulders, the upper back and the top of the head (if the pet is comfortable with you) are usually better places to stroke. Paws, bellies, legs and tails are areas pets may not like being touched.



Important: The areas shown are places you should generally avoid touching, but some pets may not enjoy being touched in other places too. Always watch the pet's body language and respect their choices. Children should **always** be supervised by an adult when interacting with a pet.



Pet interactions

Answer sheet

Hugging a pet tightly - Unkind

Animals can find hugs uncomfortable and can make them feel trapped by restricting their movement.

Chasing a pet - Unkind

It can make them feel scared or worried.

Letting your pet choose - Kind

Pets should have a choice about whether they want to be stroked, handled or played with. Giving them a choice helps them feel safe and comfortable.

Playing when they ask you to - Kind

If they are choosing to play, it provides fun interaction and mental stimulation.

Disturbing a sleeping pet - Unkind

This disrupts their rest and can startle them, leading to startled responses.

Pulling their tail or ears - Unkind

These are very sensitive parts of our pets and can cause them lots of pain.

Giving your pet fresh water - Kind

Pets need fresh, clean water every day to stay healthy and hydrated.

Taking away their food - Unkind

Taking their food while they're eating can trigger anxiety and resource guarding.

Giving your pet space - Kind

Pets need to be able to choose when to interact.

Pet interactions

Answer sheet

The dog is sleeping in their bed - Give space

They are resting and should not be disturbed.

The cat is hiding under the table - Give space

Hiding can be a way of seeking safety or avoiding interaction.

The guinea pigs come towards you and sniffs your hand - Say hello

They are choosing to approach and investigate you. Keep the interaction gentle and supervised.

The dog is playing with their favourite toy on their own - Wait

The dog is enjoying their own activity and hasn't chosen to interact with you. Let them play until they come to ask you to interact, as taking their toy can cause resource guarding.

The cat walks away while stroking them - Give space

The cat is showing that they want the interaction to stop.

The rabbits are eating their hay - Wait

You should always let your pet finish eating before trying to interact.

The dog brings your their toy to play with - Say hello/Play

The dog is choosing to approach you and invite interaction - but still with the owner's permission or adult supervision.

The cat comes over and gently rubs against your legs - Say hello

The cat is choosing to approach you so you can gently stroke them until they decide to walk away.