

Farm Animal Five Freedoms

THE FIVE FREEDOMS HELP ENSURE ANIMALS GET THE CARE THEY NEED. PLAY THE GAME TO DISCOVER WHAT THE FIVE FREEDOMS MEAN FOR FARM ANIMALS.

Freedom from hunger and thirst
All animals need the proper food and access to fresh, clean water.

1

Freedom 1
You allow your dairy cows to graze on pasture
Ahead 2

Freedom 2
You stop using painful shock cattle prods to move cows
Ahead 3

Freedom 3
You install solar-powered pumps so cattle have clean, fresh water
Ahead 1

Freedom 4
Instead of bare concrete, you add wood shavings as bedding for your pigs
Ahead 1

Freedom 5
Four dairy cows have hurt feet that aren't getting treated
Back 1

Freedom from pain, injury and disease
Progressive farmers give animals medication for painful practices such as cattle branding and dehorning; ensure sick animals are treated immediately; and keep their barns clean to prevent disease.

2

Freedom 1
It snowed and you forgot to give the cattle hay
Back 2

Freedom 2
A pig is getting picked on, so you move him to another pen
Ahead 4

Freedom 3
Your dog chases the chickens and some get injured
Go to VET!

Freedom 4
It's smoking hot and your cattle have no shade out in the field
Back 2

3

Freedom from distress
Distress can be intentionally harming animals. But animal distress can also result from not treating injuries or sickness, or from allowing animals to be scared or stressed much of the time.

Freedom 1
The pigs' water trough spills; now your pigs are super thirsty
Back 3

Freedom 2
Your chicks got sick because you didn't properly clean the barn
Go to VET!

Freedom 3
To relieve cows of pain and fear, you no longer brand your cattle
Ahead 3

Freedom 4
When winter temps drop, automatic heaters warm the hen house
Ahead 3

Freedom 5
You make sure your chickens are fed twice a day
Ahead 2

Freedom from discomfort
Discomfort can mean not having bedding to sleep on; being too cold or too hot; or having too many flies in your face. Boredom is also a form of discomfort that can lead to distress.

4

Freedom 1
You never put any hay out for your cattle and now they are starving
Go to VET!

Freedom 2
When you trimmed your calves' horns, you didn't give pain medication
Go to VET!

Freedom 3
You never kicked a cow (and tired him)
Ahead 1

Freedom 4
You stopped a farmhand from kicking a cow
Ahead 1

Freedom 5
You make sure your cage-free hens have areas to dust-bathe
Ahead 1

The end

Cage-free!

Freedom 3
To relieve cows of pain and fear, you no longer brand your cattle
Ahead 3

Freedom 4
When winter temps drop, automatic heaters warm the hen house
Ahead 3

Freedom 5
You raise to cage-free!

How to play

You need one die and player pieces, such as coins. Start at the barn. Take turns rolling the die and moving along the game board. Along the way you will land on squares linked to the Five Freedoms (read each before starting). You must roll the exact number to land on "The end" to win.

Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being
Animals should be able to do what makes them feel content, satisfied and happy. They need to be able to do normal behaviours like exploring, grooming and foraging for food.

5

MOOO...VING TOWARD THE FIVE FREEDOMS

Ever wonder how farm animals are treated? Animal welfare scientists created the “Five Freedoms” as a tool to measure how well farmers are meeting their animals’ needs. The BC SPCA expects all farm animals to be provided the Five Freedoms – unfortunately, not all receive them.

The basics of food and water are covered by **Freedom 1**. For example, out on the range, cattle need fresh, clean water and good quality grass to eat.

All animals feel pain if they are injured, sick or we do things to them that hurt. When dairy cows have their horns removed, for example, pain medication helps it hurt less. That’s **Freedom 2** – minimizing pain.

Freedom from distress is **Freedom 3**. Being tied to your bed your whole life would be distressing, right? Yet that’s what mother pigs (sows) experience. They’re confined to a small cage (called a gestation stall) almost their whole lives.

Imagine having to sleep on cold, hard concrete. This is the life of most pigs. If farmers added wood shavings as bedding, they would meet **Freedom 4** – freedom from discomfort.

Picture a dairy cow looking out onto a field of lush green grass yet never getting to leave the barn – ever! Imagine you’re a hen living in a cage with other chickens packed so tight you couldn’t stretch your wings – ever! **Freedom 5** is all about having the freedom to do what comes naturally – like grazing on pasture or stretching wings.

To learn more about farm animal needs, play the **Farm Animal Five Freedoms** game on the next page. →



Rooting for change



PHOTO: TAXZI/ISTOCK



Above: a typical farrowing crate.
Below: gestation stalls.



Above: Non-SPCA Certified farms tend to be crowded and dimly lit.



What do you know about pigs? If you're like most kids you may only have been up close to a pig at a fall fair. So what are pigs really like?

success! In just five tries they figured the game out – as quickly as the chimpanzees did!

So are pigs as smart as chimpanzees or even dogs? According to experts, you can't really compare two different species directly. Each is smart in its own way. What makes pigs similar to all mammals is their ability to experience a range of emotions such as fear, anxiety, sadness, frustration and joy.

People are often surprised to learn how smart and social pigs are. Pigs learn quickly and are masters at problem solving. For example, by watching farmers open and close pen doors, pigs learn how to unlock their pen doors. Once out, some will open other pen doors to let other pigs out.

Pigs have powerful, yet delicate noses with skin so sensitive they can easily tell rocks from roots when digging for food. This special skill is put to use by truffle hunters in France. Truffles are a mushroom-like fungus. An expensive French delicacy that is hard to find. Pigs are trained to sniff out and unearth these fragile foods without bruising them.

Are pigs clever enough to play video games? A pig scientist, Dr. Stanley Curtis, was curious to find out. Using Skittles and M&Ms as rewards, the pigs had to use a joystick to match drawings they saw on a computer screen. The pigs learned that the quicker they matched the images the more candy they got. Sweet



Life in a stall is no life at all

What do pigs like to do? Pigs are not too different from their wild relatives – wild boars. Wild boars live in small groups. Most of their day is spent foraging for food. They eat plants, fruits, insects and small animals, and dig for tender roots beneath the soil. When pregnant pigs (sows) are ready to give birth, they find a quiet spot and make a nest. They gather grass and leaves into a soft bed to protect and provide comfort to their piglets.

is frustrating and boring. The boredom causes them to display mindless behaviours such as bar biting and head swaying, which they repeat over and over, day after day.

Today's pigs raised for food don't enjoy much in the way of comfort. They are raised in crowded, dimly lit barns and never go outside. They are bred to grow fast and large.

Just before they give birth, sows are moved to different crates – farrowing stalls – with room for the piglets on the sides. But the sow still cannot turn around. Plus there is no bedding in which to make a nest. Yet the sow will still paw at the concrete floor to try to make a nest for her and her babies.

Sows have the least comfort. Most sows live their entire lives in stalls called gestation crates. The metal barred crates are just big enough to fit their bodies.

There is hope for change. Animal welfare groups including the BC SPCA are working to change the way pigs are being raised. One goal is to make it a requirement that pigs have more space – sows especially – so they don't suffer in stalls. It is up to farmers to put the changes in place.

They can never turn around and can only take one step forward and one step back. They stand on concrete slatted floors so when they go to the bathroom, their droppings fall through into pits. The life for sows

In the meantime, people can choose to purchase SPCA Certified farm foods including pork, eggs, beef, chicken and more. Animals raised on SPCA Certified farms are provided space to move around and enjoy a better quality of life.



Your action! Help get the word out about SPCA Certified farm products. With permission, put up the "SPCA Certified" poster. Also, consider doing a school report or speech on the topic of how pigs are raised. For more information visit the BC SPCA's website at spca.bc.ca/pigfacts.

Like dogs, pigs are very social and love to play, run around and explore. On an SPCA Certified farm, that's exactly what they get to do!



Meeting a pig's needs:

SPCA CERTIFIED PIG FARMS

October is **Farm Animal Month** at the BC SPCA. It's a time to think about how we treat farm animals and how we might improve their lives. Let's take a look at pigs.

Close your eyes and imagine what farm life is like for the pigs we raise for food. Do you picture pigs outside?

Do you imagine them wallowing in a pond or out in a field? Do you see mother pigs (sows) lying on a bed of straw, nursing their piglets?

Sadly, almost all of the 27 million pigs raised in Canada can't do any of these things. That is, unless they are pigs raised on **SPCA Certified farms**.

On a regular, industrial pig farm – where most

On an SPCA Certified farm, piglets are able to nurse and sleep close to their mothers in their nest.





Exploring the outdoors

pigs live – pigs are raised inside barns. They never walk on grass, smell fresh air or feel the sun on their backs.



Zzzzz... nap-time

Pregnant sows are mostly kept in crates, called gestation stalls, their whole lives. They can't turn around, much less walk anywhere. Their stalls are too narrow and short.

When nearing the time to give birth, a sow naturally wants to make a nest for her piglets. But on regular pig farms, sows can only scratch at a barren floor. There is no bedding material. The mother and piglets lie on cold, slatted floors.



Lunch is served!

By contrast, on SPCA Certified pig farms, sows are given the freedom to make nests. They can also rest on soft straw or wood shavings. Sows are never kept in crates at all. They are free to wander around a large pen with other sows.



"Move over!"
"I can't..."

By contrast, there is no room to move in this farrowing crate on a regular farm.

SPACE AND COMFORT

Growing pigs on a regular pig farm start out with lots of room. As they grow, they fill the space. Soon they get so big there is barely any space to move around. The floor is concrete with slats for urine and droppings to fall through. There is no place to explore or bedding to dig. Some farmers might give them a ball or an old tire to play with, but that's all.


On SPCA Certified farms, pigs spend time outside or inside the barn with space to move around and bedding to rest on. They enjoy running, playing and foraging for food, digging with their powerful noses.

When you know that pigs are as clever and social as dogs, then how you raise them matters even more. SPCA Certified farmers raise their animals in ways where they don't suffer from discomfort, boredom and frustration. To see more pictures of SPCA Certified farms, visit spcacertified.ca.



Can you think of ways to improve the lives of farm animals? Send us your ideas and you could win one of three SPCA Certified hats plus some other SPCA Certified goodies. You must be 13 or under to enter.



 **Send your ideas to:** Bark! Farm Animal Month, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1 or email to kids@spca.bc.ca. Contest ends October 31, 2015.



