

A black and white dog with floppy ears is sitting in a field of tall green grass. The dog is looking slightly to the right. The background is a soft-focus field of grass.

Animal Welfare

Croney Research Group

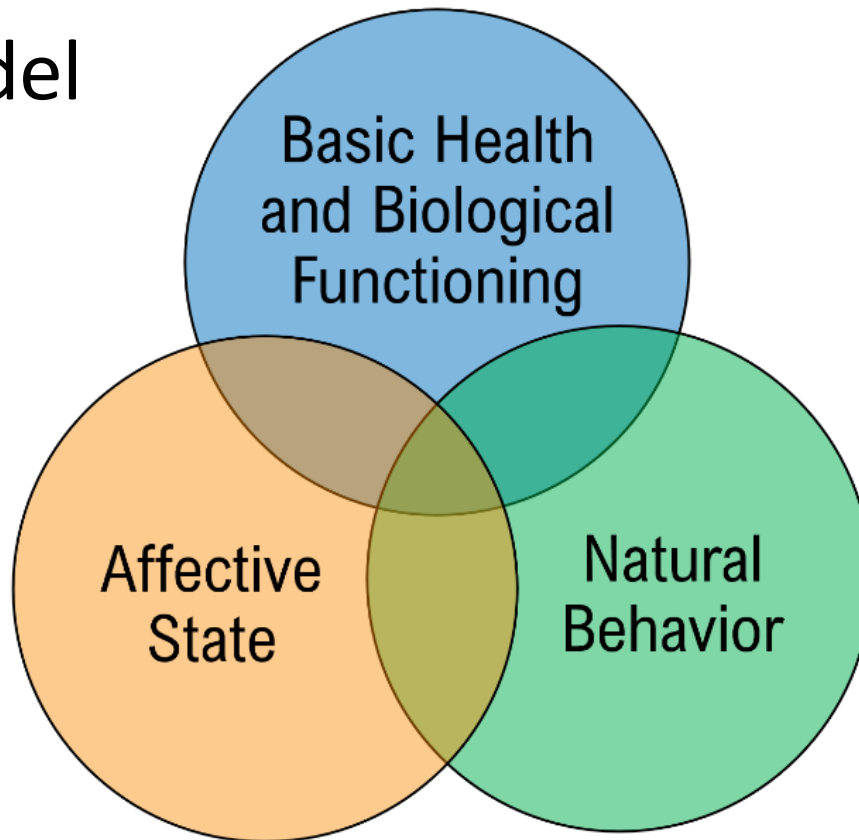
A fluffy white dog, possibly a Great Pyrenees, is standing in a forest. The dog is looking to the right with its mouth open and tongue hanging out. The background is filled with trees and foliage, with some leaves showing autumn colors. The lighting is soft and natural.

What is Animal Welfare?

How an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives

Three Circles Model

Overlapping circles indicate interactions between aspects of animal welfare



(Fraser et al., 1997)

To support dog welfare:

- Attend to physical health
- Attend to behavioral health
- Design environments to promote wellbeing



Meet Physical Needs!

Provide:

- Nourishing food
- Fresh water
- Physical exercise
- Veterinary care, grooming
- Safe environment

Meet Behavioral Needs!

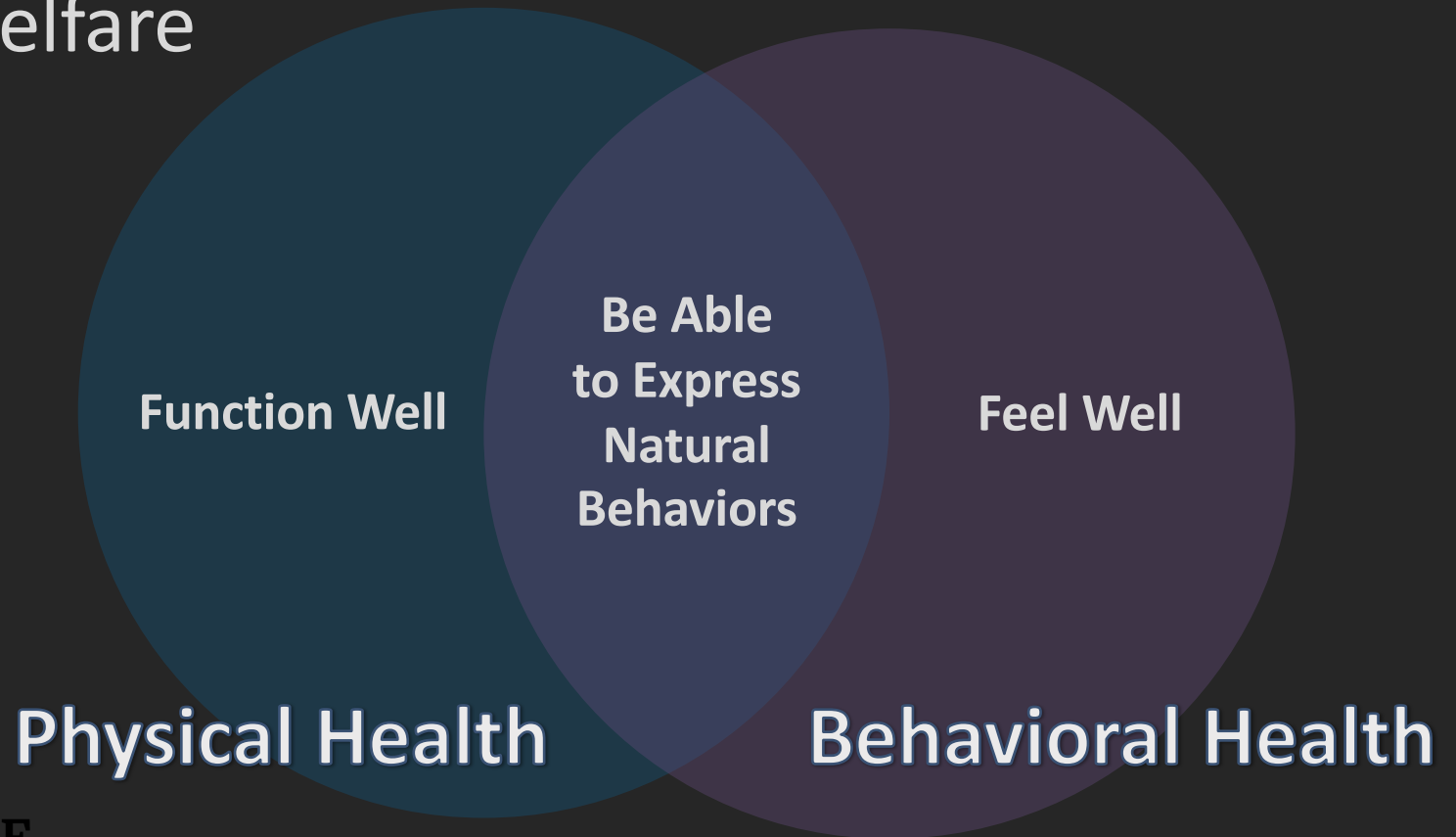
Provide:

- Opportunities to express rewarding behaviors (e.g., digging, chewing)
- Social housing and play sessions
- Positive interactions with human caretakers
- Low stress handling
- Enrichment items (e.g., toys, music, chew items)
- Reward-based training sessions

Meet Environmental Needs!

- Provide a complex environment (e.g., ramps, stairs, multiple flooring substrates)
- Minimize loud noises, aversive odors
- Maintain appropriate air quality, temperature, humidity
- Provide soft, dry resting area
- Provide access to fresh air, sunshine, natural substrates (e.g., grass, soil)

Good Welfare



A close-up photograph of a dog's face, focusing on its eyes and nose. The dog has brown and white fur and is looking directly at the camera. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly gravel or asphalt.

What Does Good Animal Welfare Look Like?

Dog is:

- Healthy
- Comfortable
- Well-nourished
- Safe
- Able to express rewarding natural behaviors

What does Poor Animal Welfare Look Like?

An animal who is:

- Suffering from pain, fear, or distress
- Diseased
- Immunosuppressed
- Physically wounded

An animal who has:

- A reduced life expectancy
- Impaired growth
- Reduced reproduction
- Behavior abnormalities

How is Animal Welfare Assessed?

- Physiological measures (e.g., stress hormones, immune function)
- Physical health measures (e.g., body condition, illness, injury, reproductive performance)
- Behavioral measures (e.g., fear, repetitive behaviors, play)

HINT: Assessing both positive and negative indicators is important



Welfare Assessments Should be:

- Rapid
- Accurate
- Objective
- Conducted regularly



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Application Hints

- Tailor care to the individual needs and preferences of each dog
- Regularly monitor welfare
- Adjust practices and interventions as needed



FAQ: Meeting the physical needs of dogs (e.g., providing food, water, shelter, health care) is not enough to ensure their welfare.

While it is very important to make sure that the physical needs of dogs are met, it is also critical to attend to their behavioral needs.



Learn More:

- [Animal Welfare Concepts: Applications to Dogs](#)
- [Assessing Kennel Dog Welfare](#)
- [Kennel Dog Welfare: Challenges of Field Assessment](#)