

# A Nation of Animal Lovers?

**The UK is said to be a nation of animal lovers, so why is there such a difference between the way society values companion animals, who share our lives and homes, and farmed animals, which end up on dinner plates? Are companion animals and farmed animals really so different? Read on and make up your own mind.**



## **DOGS**

Dogs are the UK's favourite pets. Dogs are given somewhere clean, dry and warm to sleep and they are taken for daily walks and given the chance to have a run around and stretch. They need company from other dogs or people so aren't left alone for too long. Dogs are even given their own toys, are well looked after and are often regarded as a member of the family.

## **PIGS**

Like dogs, pigs have a lifespan of up to 15 years and their intelligence makes them just as easy to train. Most of the 9.5 million pigs reared for their meat are slaughtered at just four to seven months of age. 70% are reared intensively – being closely confined indoors for their entire lives and denied their normal behaviour. The pens in which growing pigs are kept are typically overcrowded, poorly lit and without bedding.

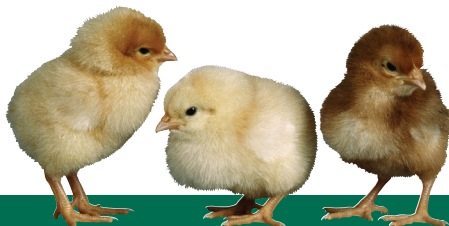


## **CATS**

Cats are the second most popular pet in the UK. Cats are very active and like to play, climb and venture outdoors. Like dogs, cats enjoy a warm, dry and comfortable place to sleep and are treated with love and respect.

## **CHICKENS**

Research has shown that chickens are intelligent animals that can anticipate the future and demonstrate self-control. In a natural environment chickens would choose to perch, run, walk and stretch their wings; however, intensive farming does not permit chickens to do this. The majority of chickens are housed in large windowless sheds holding 20 to 50 thousand birds. They are allowed an area similar in size to a sheet of A4 paper. Around 800 million are slaughtered each year.



# What can you do?

- Visit the Butcher's Cat website at [www.butcherscat.com](http://www.butcherscat.com)
- Write to your local paper with facts and figures from the website and offer to send them veggie/vegan dishes
- Order the Butcher's Cat postcards by calling 0161 925 2000 or by emailing your address to [butcherscat@vegsoc.org](mailto:butcherscat@vegsoc.org)
- Promote the website through social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook, or write about it on your website or blog.
- Download the poster from the website and put it up where you can

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## GO VEGETARIAN - GOOD FOR YOU, ANIMALS AND OUR PLANET

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### A positive choice for you

A well-balanced vegetarian diet is a healthy choice, with all the nutrients you need. It's the easy way to reach the recommended five portions of fruit and veg a day. As an added bonus, a vegetarian diet can often be gentle on your pocket and taste delicious. Visit [www.vegsoc.org](http://www.vegsoc.org)

### A positive choice for animals

Every day in the UK alone, around 2.3 million land animals are slaughtered to satisfy our demand for meat.

### A positive choice for our planet

A vegetarian lifestyle can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and the damage they do to the world. The UN's landmark study Livestock's Long Shadow suggested that GHGs from livestock far exceeded those from transport (18% v's 13.5), while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimate that livestock farming is responsible for 14% of emissions. Either way, a plant based diet is a tasty way to significantly reduce your environmental footprint. Visit [www.vegsoc.org/environment](http://www.vegsoc.org/environment)



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