

Parrot in a pet shop

DANDREW MCCONNELL/ALAMY

Image

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The illegal trade in non-domestic ('exotic') animals is worth several million pounds in the UK alone. This photo is of a blue and gold macaw. Rare species such as the hyacinth macaw can sell for up to £60,000



Stray dog

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Local authorities and the police have joint responsibility for stray dogs. The RSPCA does not collect healthy stray dogs



Battery hens

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As of 1 January 2012 conventional 'barren' battery cages are banned throughout Europe. However, it is still permitted to keep hens in so-called 'enriched' cages (above). These are still battery cages. They provide just 50cm² of extra usable space per bird compared to old conventional cages, with limited provisions for a scratching area, nesting area and perches. The RSPCA is calling for all caged systems to be banned and replaced with well-managed alternative systems, such as free-range and barn.



Iguana with bone deformity



The Animal Welfare Act 2006 states that a responsible pet owner has a duty of care to ensure that an animal's needs are met. Many pets have complex needs and can be very difficult to care for properly. This iguana's bone deformity was probably caused by a poor diet and/or lack of exposure to ultraviolet light



Indian elephants

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Zoos must be licenced by their local authority



Research rat

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The Animal Welfare Act 2006 does not cover animal experiments. This is because the use of animals in research and testing is already regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, under which scientists must apply to the Home Office for licences to use animals

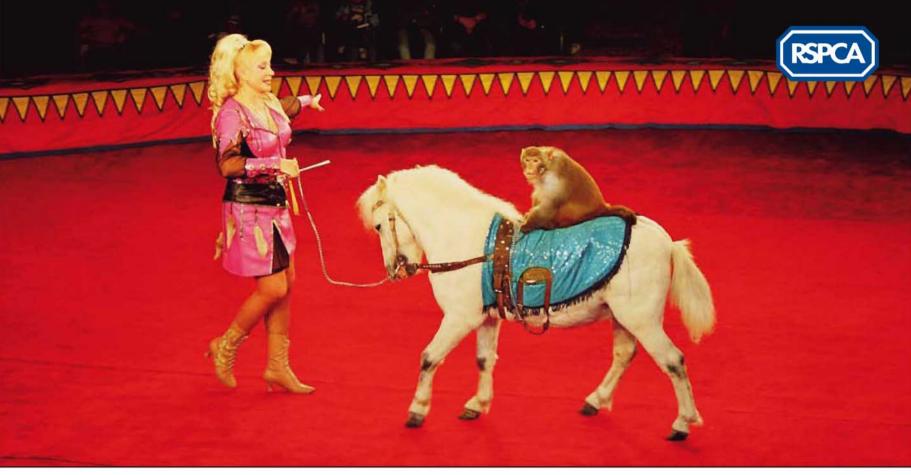


Puppy farm

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Anyone selling an animal commercially must have a licence. Commercial dog breeders must also have a licence. The RSPCA believes that prospective owners should acquire an animal from the place it was born, and at least see the puppy with its mother, or from a reputable rescue organisation



Performing animals



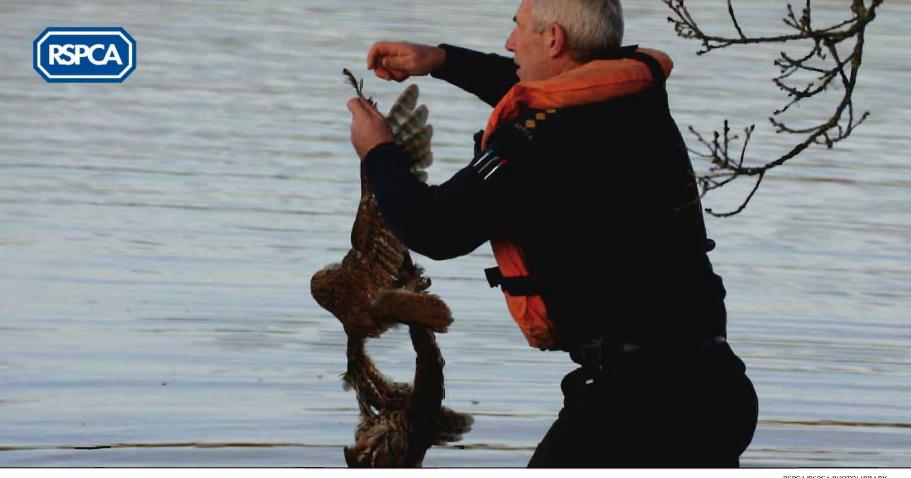
Circuses must be registered with their local authority. Circuses have a duty of care under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to keep their animals in a suitable manner



Single rabbit in a small hutch



Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, all owners or people responsible for an animal have a duty of care to meet that animal's needs. Rabbits need to be housed with at least one other rabbit and they need enough space to stand on their hind legs. They also need access to grass and adequate space and time to exercise



Owls caught in fishing line

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These owls were caught in fishing line and needed to be rescued by an RSPCA inspector. The RSPCA encourages a responsible attitude towards wild animals, by not disturbing or polluting habitats