- 8. Salmon and trout are reared intensively in fish farms to produce cheap fish. Farmed salmon constantly swim round their cages instead of migrating across the ocean. Fish wastes and chemicals used to control disease pollute the environment for other aquatic life.
- a) Fish should live free in the wild, not enclosed in farms.
- b) These fish suffer from stress. We should farm fish less intensively.
- c) Intensive fish farming is damaging to wildlife. We should look for less intensive ways of increasing fish production.
- d) Fish farming provides jobs and a cheap form of tasty protein.
 - 9. Sheep are transported alive from Britain for slaughter or further fattening to countries such as France and the Netherlands. Total journey times can last over 20 hours.
 - a) Sheep are sentient beings, not agricultural goods. We have no right to treat them like this.
 - b) Long distance transport causes unnecessary suffering and risks spreading disease. We should slaughter them here and export their meat.
 - c) Transporting food over long distances is wasteful of energy. We should encourage people to eat more locally produced food.
 - d) The live export market provides continental consumers with the fresh meat they like and provides better prices at market for our hard-pressed farmers.
- 10. Organic meat comes from animals given feed produced without chemical fertilisers or pesticides. Animals are given more space and the young are weaned later to try to reduce the need for antibiotics.
- a) This is a much more humane way of rearing animals, but it would be better not to kill. Why not eat organic vegetarian food?
- b) Organic farming is good because the animals have a happier life.
- c) We should eat organic meat because it is better for the environment.
- d) People should eat organic meat if they want to, but it is not a practical way of feeding the poor and the hungry.

Assessing your score

You have probably noticed how this works. Each of the four positions, a), b), c) and d) represents a different philosophy.

See if you can work out what each position represents. How does each position feel about how animals should be used for food?

Finally, work out which position you are most often giving the BIG tick to.



Photo credits: Whales: Hiroya Minakuchi / AFLO Others: iStock



- 1. Whales in the sea have declined because they have been killed for their meat and oil. Some species are close to extinction. Methods of killing them can cause great suffering. However, whaling is important in the traditions of some countries and also amongst Inuit communities.
- a) We have no right to exploit whales for our own gain. They are highly intelligent, sensitive creatures and we should leave them alone.
- b) The methods used to kill whales are often cruel. They should be left alone at least until more humane methods can be found of killing them.
- c) Whales should be left alone until their numbers have returned to normal. Then we should control the numbers killed so that whale populations do not drop again.
- d) Whales are a good source of food and oil and we must respect cultural traditions. Scientifically-controlled whaling should be allowed.

- 2. Following the EU ban on barren cages, half of British eggs are produced in enriched or colony cages. Caged hens have limited freedom to move. Their wastes can cause air pollution. However, caged eggs are cheap.
- a) A cage is a prison. Hens should be allowed to live free.
- b) Caged systems are too restrictive. People should buy eggs from cage-free systems where hens can express their natural behaviours.
- c) Intensive farms should be shut down if they cannot process their waste without causing pollution.
- d) Hens kept in colony cages produce cheap eggs. People on lower incomes would suffer if all cages were banned.
- 3. Farming pigs and chickens intensively indoors increases production of cheap meat. It produces more meat per hectare, but the animals are fed on crops which could more efficiently be fed directly to people.
- a) It is unethical never to let animals go outside. All animals should have a basic right to freedom.
- b) Pigs and chickens suffer in overcrowded indoor systems. We should give these animals more space and ideally keep them free-range.
- c) We should pay a bit more for our meat but eat less of it. We should mainly eat free-range beef and lamb since they eat grass which people cannot eat.
- d) If people choose to pay more for free-range, that's good for rural incomes. However, we need intensive farming for those who want cheaper meat.
 - Vegetarians don't eat meat or fish. This reduces animal suffering and killing. Less land is required to grow food for vegetarians.
 - a) It is best to go vegetarian or vegan. Non-human animals have a right to life too. A vegetarian diet can be healthier and making meatless meals also provides jobs.
 - b) It is alright to eat meat as long as it hasn't been reared by cruel factory farming methods.
 - c) People should eat less meat to free more of our land for wildlife.
 - d) Eating less meat might be a good thing if it helps us to feed the human population.
 However, meat is good for you, it tastes nice and meat production provides jobs.

- 5. In many parts of the world, dogs and cats are reared for food. They are often killed very cruelly.
- a) Dogs and cats should not be eaten. They should live long and full lives.
- b) In principle it is up to people what they eat, but cruelty is always wrong. Dogs and cats used for food should be slaughtered humanely.
- c) We may not like this, but it is better than killing wild and endangered animals such as monkeys to eat.
- d) I wouldn't like to eat dog, but I happily eat lamb. It is up to people in other countries to choose what they eat.
 - 6. Cod is a good source of protein and fishing is a traditional livelihood. However, cod stocks have been over-fished. Fishing for cod is stressful to the fish. Those who are still alive after landing usually die slowly of suffocation and many are even gutted alive.
 - a) Fish are sentient beings with a right to life. We should leave fish alone and find better ways of feeding people without killing animals.
 - b) Fishing causes suffering to fish on a massive scale. We should reduce the number of fish we catch. Fish should be humanely killed after landing.
 - c) People should eat fish in moderation and only from sustainably managed stocks to reduce over-fishing.
 - d) Cod is good for you and people like it. Whilst it is important to protect fish stocks, the key priority is to maintain livelihoods.
- 7. Cloning can produce productive animals, identical to their parent, quickly and efficiently. Cloned animals are more likely to suffer difficult births and respiratory problems. Mortality can be high. Cloning can reduce genetic diversity, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks.
- a) We have no right to mess around with the bodies of animals like this.
- b) Producing clones requires surgery or other unpleasant procedures. Cloning should be banned to prevent unnecessary suffering.
- c) We don't know all the risks involved and we don't want to lose any more bio-diversity.
- d) This technology could help produce cheaper and healthier meat. It should be encouraged to develop in a sensible way.

