



# GLOUCESTERSHIRE ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION & CHELTENHAM ANIMAL SHELTER

Gardners Lane, Swindon Road, Cheltenham, GL51 9JW  
01242 523521 | [www.gawa.org.uk](http://www.gawa.org.uk) | [education@gawa.org.uk](mailto:education@gawa.org.uk)  
Registered Charity: 1081019

When meeting any dog, it's important to keep both you and the dog safe and happy. The steps below can be a good guide to follow to have a safe interaction:

1

ASK the owner of the dog before you approach 'Can I stroke your dog?'

Not all dogs like to be stroked



2


Approach slowly, giving the dog SPACE & then WAIT!  
Let the dog sniff you before you try & touch.

Do not hold your fist out for them to smell- this can be scary to dogs



3

Once the dog has APPROACHED YOU, check first if it is showing signs of unhappiness.

 This can be a tucked-under tail, licking its lips, yawning or ignoring you. Do not touch a dog showing these signs

4

Now you can stroke the dog gently on the chest or back up to 3 TIMES & stop- this gives the dog CHOICE.

Do not stroke the top of their head!

3

5

After 3 strokes, check if the dog is still happy - look for a RELAXED tail wagging.

If the dog moves away, it is saying 'I am finished with petting'



6

REMEMBER:

- Always check with your grown up first
- Never approach dogs that are without an owner
- Use quiet voices and soft hands
- Give dogs SPACE & CHOICE



When meeting any dog, it's important to keep both you and the dog safe and happy. Can you put the 'How to safely meet a dog' steps in the correct order below?

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

Things to  
remember....



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Cut out the boxes and stick them in the correct order on  
page 2



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dog SPACE & then WAIT!  
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If the dog walks away, it is saying  
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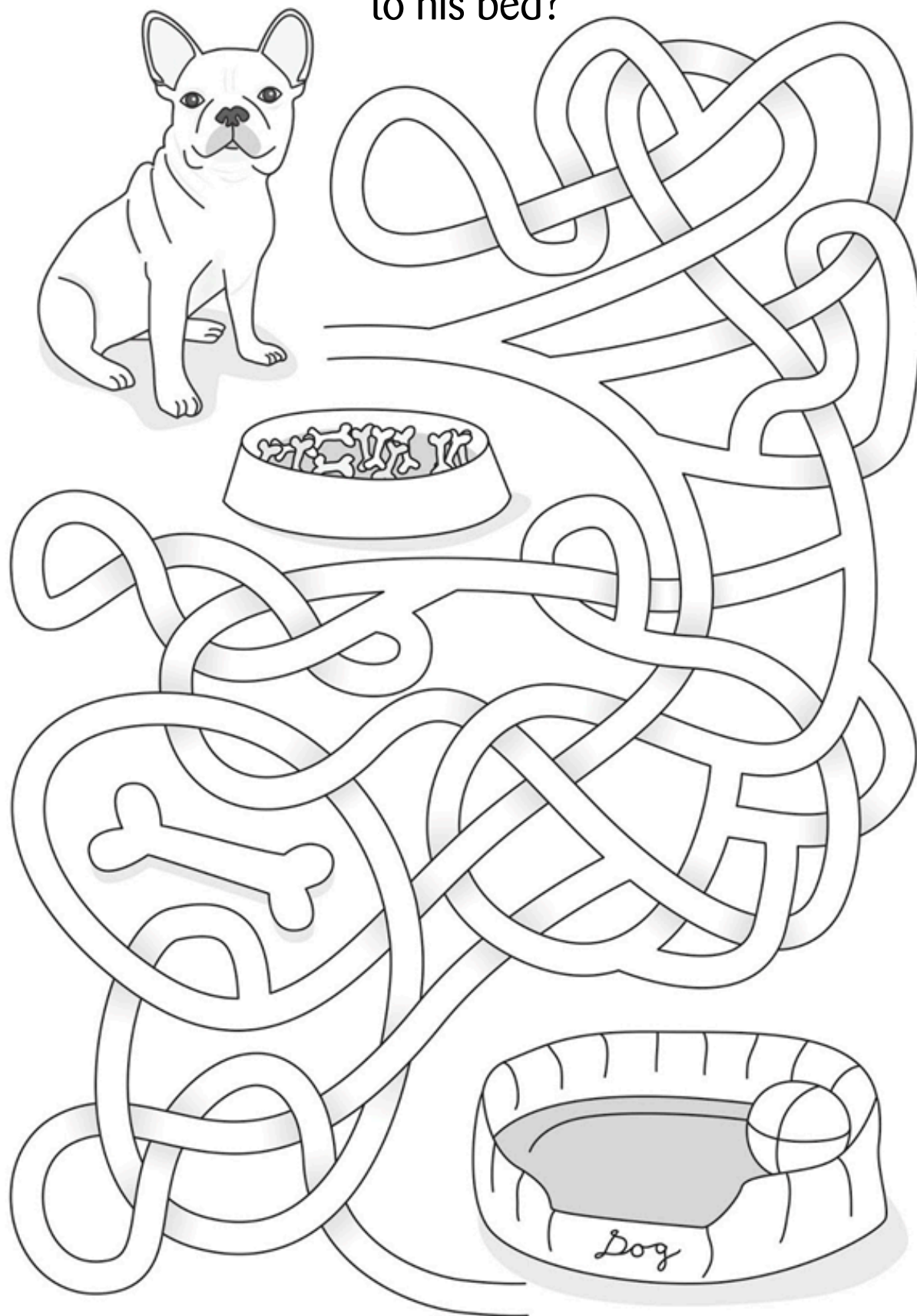
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Dogs need lots of things to be happy and healthy, including a safe and comfortable place to sleep. Can you lead this dog to his bed?







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When meeting or interacting with dogs, we must consider whether it is an enjoyable experience.

We must ALWAYS provide a dog with SPACE and CHOICE for them to feel happy and for us to stay safe.



## BAD

This photo shows a BAD interaction; the dog has no SPACE or CHOICE



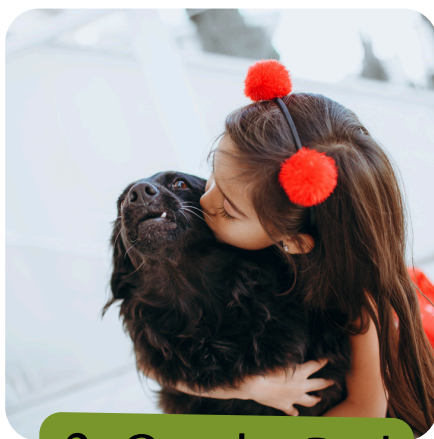
## GOOD

This photo shows a GOOD interaction; the dog has SPACE and CHOICE to move freely

Can you circle if the photos below show GOOD or BAD interactions?  
Think about whether the dog has SPACE and CHOICE.



1. Good    Bad



2. Good    Bad



3. Good    Bad



4. Good    Bad



5. Good    Bad



6. Good    Bad

ANSWERS - 1. Good; 2. Bad; 3. Good; 4. Bad; 5. Good; 6. Bad



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Dogs show us how they feel using their face, tail or body, which is known as 'body language'.

Can you find the hidden words which show us 'unhappy' dog body language?  
Words are hidden up and down!

A	G	S	N	A	P	X	M	C	M	B	H
K	R	T	K	B	L	I	N	K	E	B	I
C	O	S	T	A	R	E	Y	P	A	I	D
W	W	W	I	D	E	E	Y	E	S	T	E
I	L	Y	Q	E	L	I	C	K	T	E	U
C	O	O	E	O	L	Y	A	W	N	T	W
C	F	E	V	T	T	P	R	S	K	Z	E
B	B	E	A	R	S	B	A	C	K	S	C

EARS BACK

STARE

LICK

GROWL

YAWN

WIDE EYES

SNAP

HIDE

BITE

BLINK





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Did you know that rabbits cannot live with guinea pigs? Rabbits and guinea pigs have very different needs and should only live with a companion of their kind. Can you find the 5 hidden guinea pigs below so they can be moved to a home of their own?

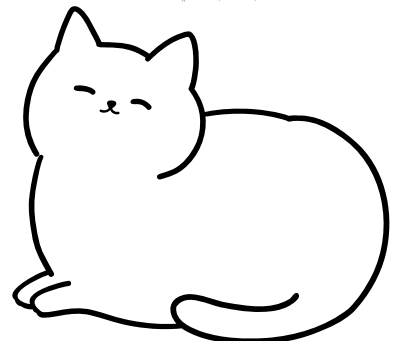
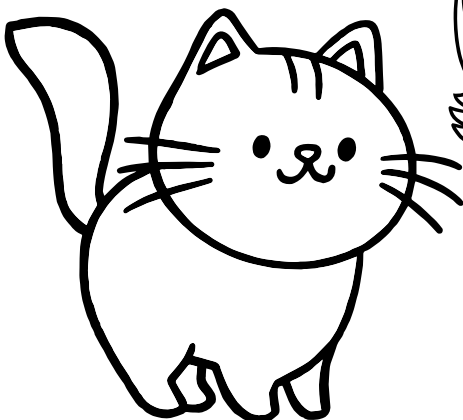
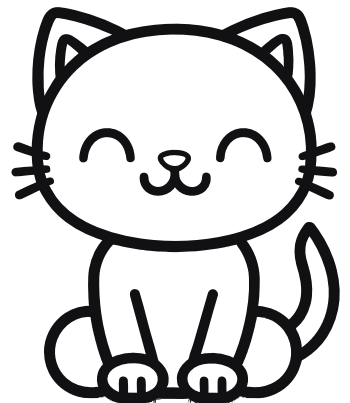
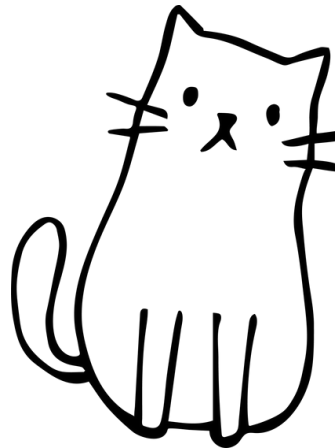
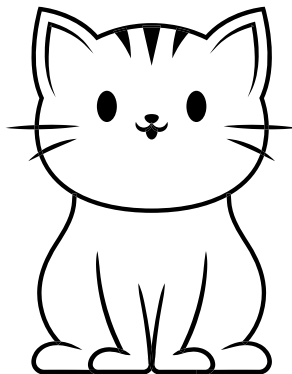
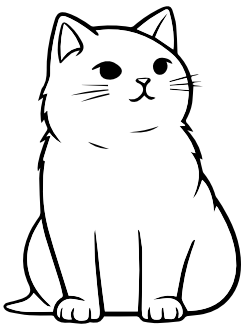
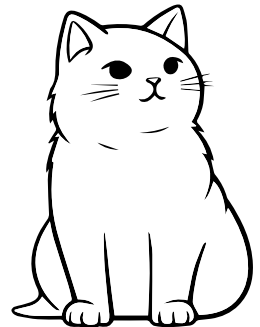
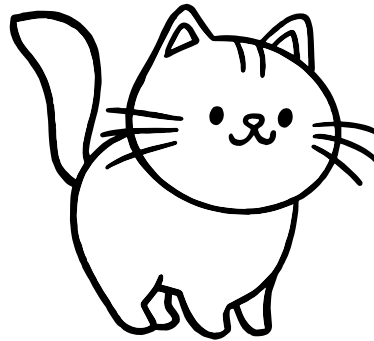
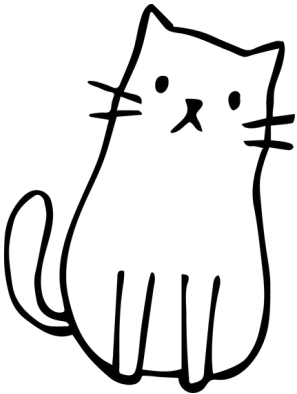
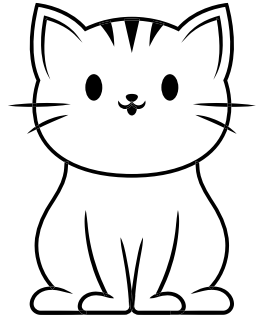
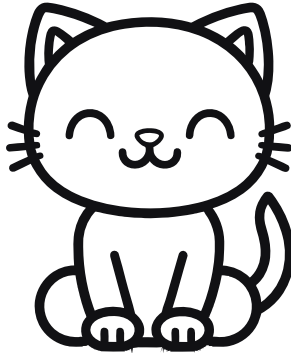
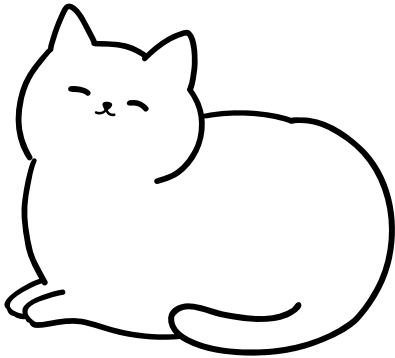




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Cheltenham Animal Shelter often has litters of kittens to take care of. Some kittens even look identical! Can you pair up the matching kittens below?

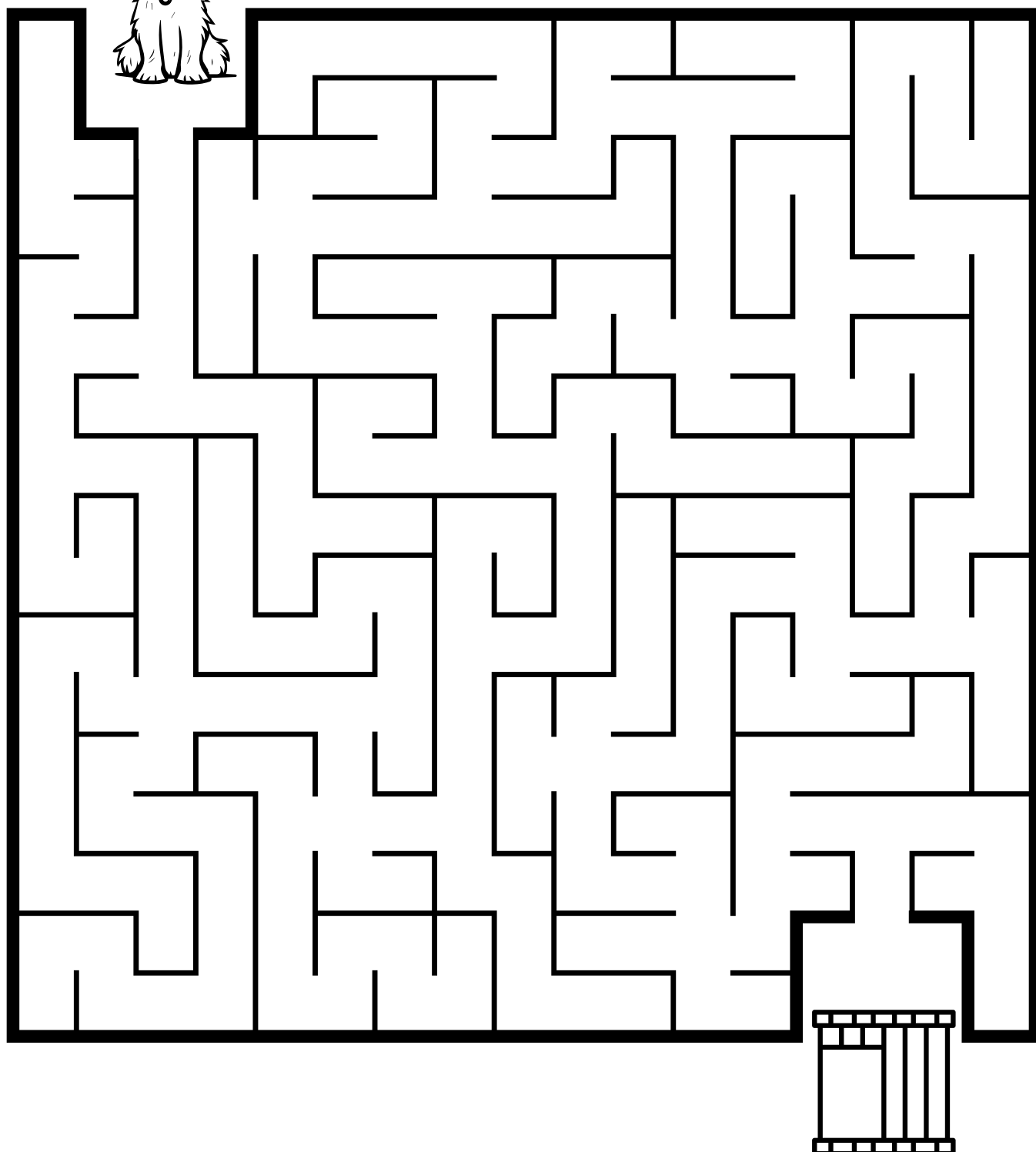




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It is important to give dogs SPACE when they are eating, and also when they sleep. Can you lead this puppy to her crate for some rest and SPACE?







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Dogs can show they are afraid or unsure in lots of different ways, and it is always safer for us to stay away from dogs who are scared.

See if you can recognise which of the dogs below are afraid?  
Tick the boxes.



ANSWER: ALL OF THEM!





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## ANSWERS- All of them!



Ears in flat position, tail tucked under, mouth clamped shut, body leaning away (avoidance)



This dog is nose/lip-licking, an early sign of worry in dogs



Ears back in flat position, mouth clamped shut, body hunched/head low (avoidance)



The whites of the eye are visible (Whale eye) plus ears back, mouth clamped shut



This dog is giving strong eye contact, best to give it space



Lip curled up and teeth exposed- high level sign of worry



The whites of the eye are visible (Whale eye) plus ears back, mouth clamped shut



This dog is yawning, an early sign of worry in dogs.



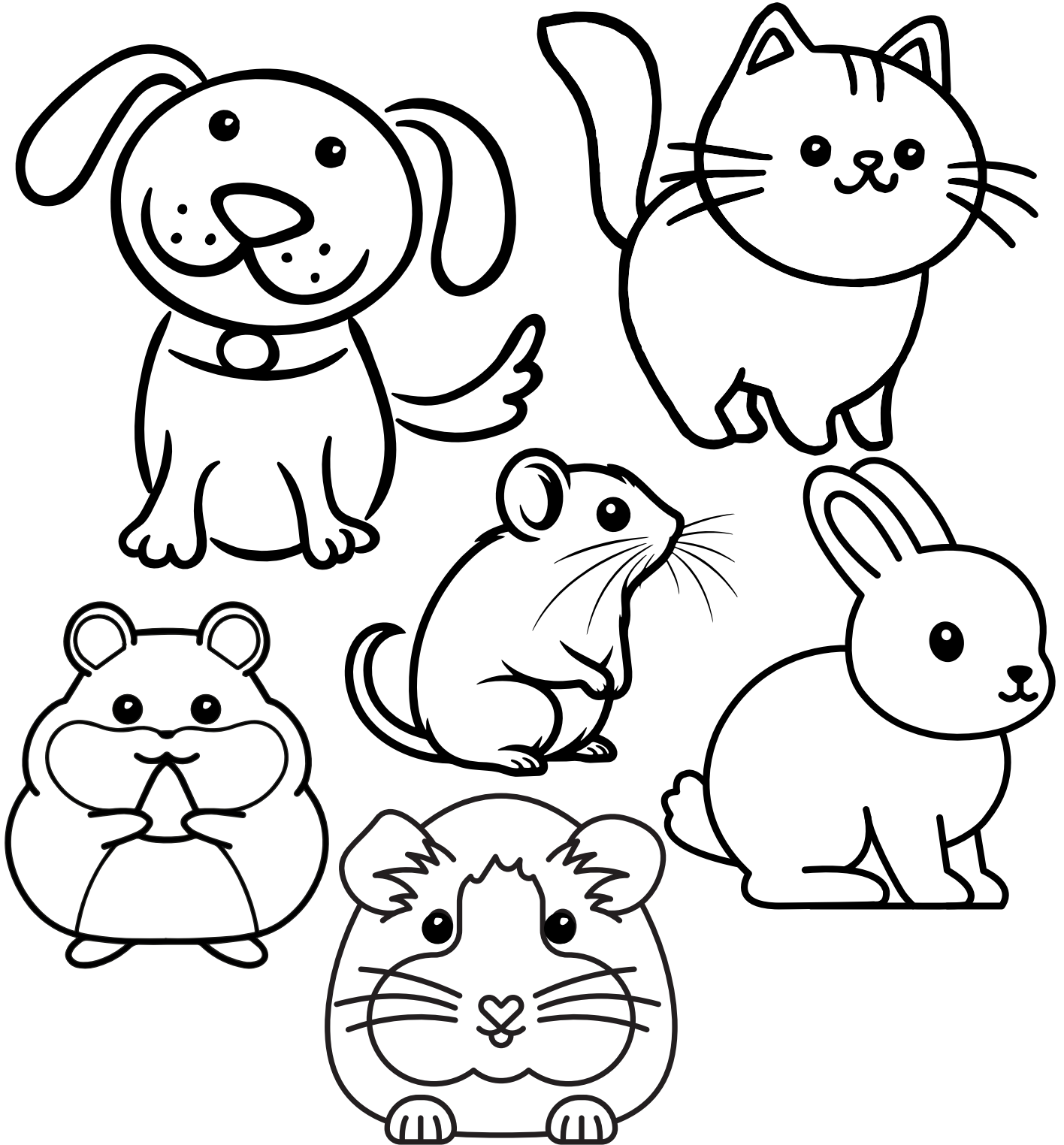
The whites of the eye are visible (Whale eye) plus ears back, mouth clamped shut



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Cheltenham Animal Shelter looks after lots of different pets including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters.



Can you colour in these pets who are waiting for their new rescue home?

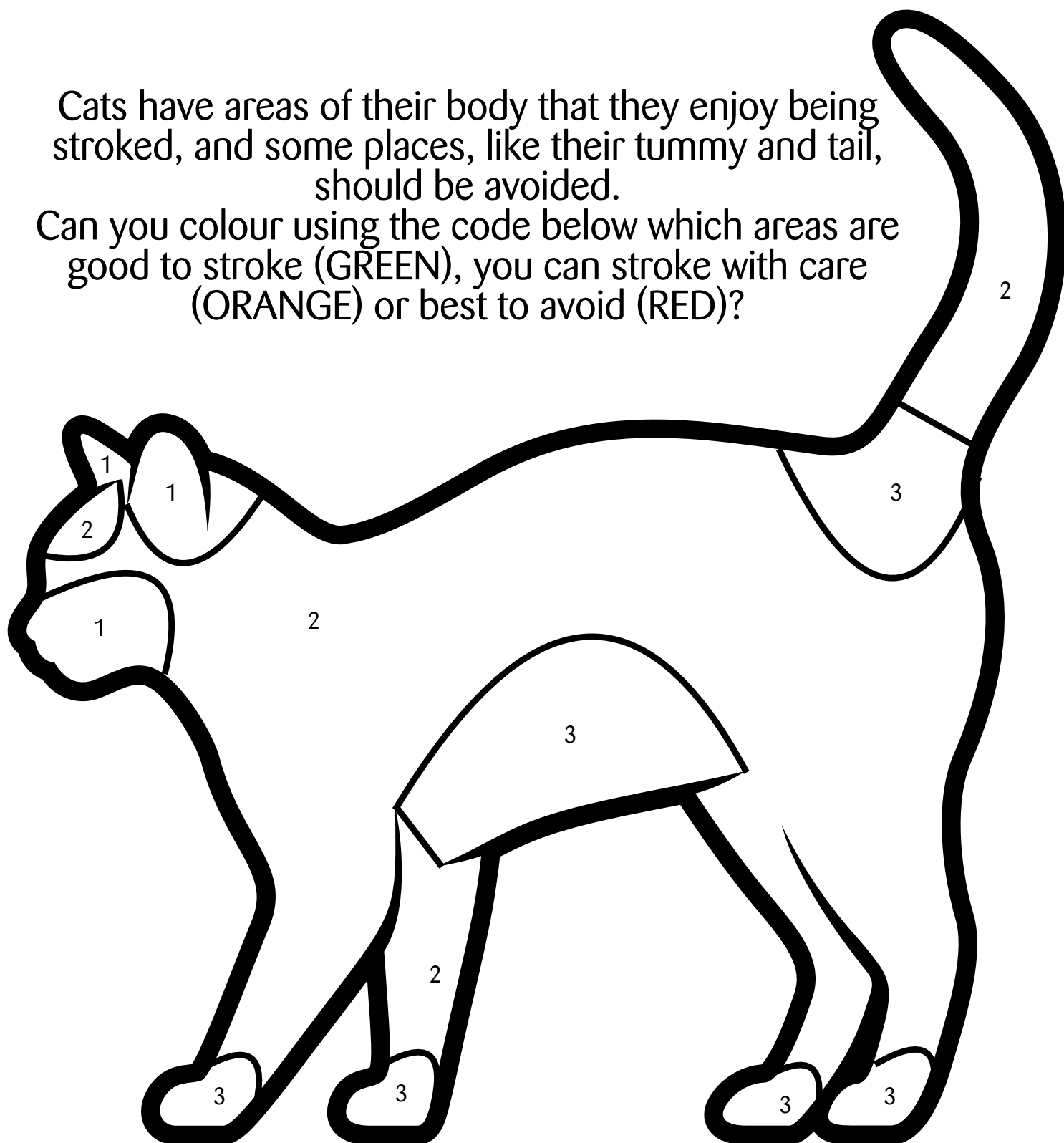


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Cats have areas of their body that they enjoy being stroked, and some places, like their tummy and tail, should be avoided.

Can you colour using the code below which areas are good to stroke (GREEN), you can stroke with care (ORANGE) or best to avoid (RED)?



1-colour me GREEN



That's nice!

2-colour me ORANGE



Hmm, not sure

3-colour me RED



Don't even  
think about it