



Zorgbeest

1. Selection of the farm animals

- General characteristics:
 - The animal is healthy (this implies a maximal preventive treatment against endo- and ectoparasites and a maximal vaccination scheme to prolong the animals' lifespan, but also to reduce the risk of diseases being transmitted to the client).
 - The animal is mature.
 - The animal is not being used for breeding purposes and should preferably be spayed or neutered.
 - The animal is well known (has been kept by the owner or supervisor for a long time).
 - The animal is tame and spontaneously seeks contact with people.
 - The animal is predictable.
 - The animal is reliable.
 - The animal should be manageable.
 - The animal can be held (immobilized) for a short period.
 - The animal allows itself to be stroked, which he or she clearly enjoys.
 - The animal must be tolerant to sudden or rapid movements, movements from people with a physical disability, sudden, loud or strange noises (e.g. crying, screaming, noise from equipment...)
 - The animal is recovering rapidly during or after a stressful situation.
 - The animal can be isolated from the rest of the group or herd.
 - The animal has been trained and knows several basic commands.
 - On command, the animal can sit still for a short period.
 - An animal that signals feelings of stress should not participate in an AAI-program (Ng et al., 2014; Fine et al., 2015).

- Breed and acquisition:



- Minimum 3 chickens
 - Avoid cocks (even if it is more natural for chickens to stay in the presence of a rooster)
 - Breeds best suited:
 - 'Small breeds' (bantams) (easy to keep and easily manageable):
 - Silk fowl bantam
 - Sebright
 - Serama
 - Cochin (dwarf)
 - 'Big breeds':
 - Cochin
 - Brahma
 - Amrock
 - Leghorn
 - Orpington



Zorgbeest



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- For young rabbits, separation from the mother shall not take place before 9 or 10 weeks of age and provided they are healthy and are developing well.
- Rabbits prefer to be housed in groups, providing they are littermates that have been kept together since weaning or they are successfully matched.
- Ideally, one neutered buck should be kept with 1 or 2 (preferably) spayed does. Males fight each other, keeping males together is therefore not recommended.
- □Breeds best suited:
 - Holland dwarf lob (1,5kg)
 - Russian (2,5kg)
 - Californian (4,5kg)
 - German lob (3kg)
 - Vienna coloured (4kg)
 - French lob (5kg)
 - Flemish giant (7kg)
- □Big breeds:
 - Have shorter life expectancy than small breeds.
 - Generally, are quieter than dwarf breeds.



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- Minimum 2 goats.
- Choose goat kids from a place where they frequently came in contact with people. □
- Choose kids from tame parents.
- Look for goat kids who approach you uninhibited and allow themselves to be touched.
- For young goat kids, separation from the native herd should not take place before at least 3 months of age, providing the mother is good-natured and friendly towards people.
- Goat breeds without horns should be used in preference to goat breeds with horns, although horns cause usually very few problems.
- Breeds best suited:
 - West-African dwarf goat
 - Saanen goat
 - Toggenburg goat
 - Boer goat
 - Anglo-Nubian goat



Zorgbeest



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- Social, affectionate, housebroken and very intelligent.
- Minimum 2 piglets (a sow and a castrated bear, 2 castrated bears or 2 sows).
- It is of utmost importance that the piglets' parents are well socialized.
- For young piglets, separation from the mother should not take place before 8 weeks of age and provided they are healthy and developing well. Piglets from very tame parents or when they are socialized well by the owner, can stay longer.
- Due to the strict legislation for keeping pigs, it is strongly recommended to limit the number of pigs to maximum three.
- Preference should be give to small pig breeds, which are easier to handle than a mature pig weighting 300 kg.
- Breeds best suited:
 - Vietnamese potbelly pig
 - Göttingen minipig
 - Troll pig
 - Indonesian minipig
 - Kunekune pig