



7. Animal housing and AAI-room



- - The chicken coop:
 - Minimum 2m² for 3 to 4 chickens.
 - Windproof.
 - Free of moisture.
 - With sufficient ventilation.
 - Bedding material from wood shavings or shives.
 - Perches at various heights, where they can sit for resting and sleeping.
 - In addition, provide a nest box in a quiet area, where the chickens can lay their eggs.
 - The chicken run:
 - A shaded area should always be provided.
 - Cover the run with wire mesh.
 - By dividing the run in sections, parts of the vegetation are being given a change to recover from being eaten away.



- - Preferably, are housed together (minimum two), if stable bonds are formed.
 - AAI-enclosure:
 - The cage is sufficiently large and should include hiding and shelter places.
 - If the rabbits are kept in a cage, provide a run where you can just let them run, jump and play freely for a few hours each day. This run should also be with hiding places to give the rabbits the possibility to retreat.
 - Indoor enclosure:
 - Be careful with loose electricity and other cables.
 - Put plants out of reach.
 - Make sure the rabbits are house broken so the floors can be easily cleaned and are accessible to people.
 - The hiding places have at least two exits, so the rabbit never feels 'trapped'. Provide multiple objects where the rabbits can sit or lie down or hide behind.
 - The bedding material must be clean and dry (wood shavings or



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- shives).
- Place a litter box (=low cat litter box) filled with absorbing litter in the area where the rabbit usually defecates. The litter box becomes more attractive when a small hay bale is hung above the litter box.
- Provide enrichment such as digging opportunities and toys. Patients may assist with making enrichment (devices) and observe enrichment being handed out or used by the rabbits. This activity is particularly useful in AAI.
- Outdoor run with rabbit hutch:
 - Fully enclosed to protect the rabbits against predation from wild species or cats.
 - Should be solid and anchored deep into the ground.
 - Provide sufficient hiding and shelter places. The shelters should have at least two exits, so the rabbit never feels 'trapped'. Provide multiple objects where the rabbits can sit or lie down or hide behind.
 - Provide a litter box (providing the rabbits are already using the litter box. This can be taught using clicker training).
 - Provide enrichment. Patients may assist with making enrichment (devices) and observe enrichment being handed out or used by the rabbits. This activity is particularly useful in AAI.
- A rabbit hill:
 - A artificial 'rabbit burrow' made from a pile of sand/dirt with slightly inclined tubes within is a dream home for rabbits, but also makes human-animal interaction more complicated.



- Goat shed:
 - The cage is sufficiently large to ensure free access, especially for low ranking goats.
 - Dwarf goat species: minimum 1m² floor space per goat.
 - Other goat species: minimum 2m² floor space per goat.
 - The doorway should be large, as to enable two goats passing through the doorway at the same time.
 - Bedding material from wood shavings or shives.
 - Draught-free and preferably isolated (goats prefer a temperature between 10 °C and 24 °C).
 - The open part of the shed should be oriented on the non-predominant wind direction.
 - In some cases (e.g. introduction of new goats into a resident group), it will be necessary to provide 2 goat sheds.



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- Wall plates and hay bales at various heights are useful to provide the goats with a safe, warm and protected sleeping area and climbing opportunities, and it offers rubbing possibilities as well.
- Other suitable rubbing objects are suspended brushes and abrasive mats.
- The pasture:
 - Goats prefer dry or low-yield pastures with vegetation largely composed of herbs and woody plants (be aware, goats risk ingesting toxic plants such as St. John's worth in meadows that are poorly maintained).
 - Design an enriched environment with wooden climbing objects, tree logs and bunches of twigs.
 - Provide a shaded area.
 - The pasture is fully enclosed by a fence that is at least of 1.5m in height. The fence is composed of small size individual meshes, so no goat can get stuck with his or her head in the mesh. Do not place climbing objects close to the fence.
 - A small exit/access area (e.g. corridor) at the entrance of the pasture can be very useful.
 - Barbed wire or electric fencing should only be used in exceptional cases.



- The barn:
 - Provide a thick layer of straw. This material can be used as bedding, but can also be used for building a nest.
 - The open part of the shed should be oriented on the non-predominant wind direction.
 - The barn should provide sufficient shelter, and also be comfortably warm.
 - Mini-pigs: Minimum 2.5m² floor space per mini-pig.
- The pasture:
 - The solid wire mesh fence is anchored on concrete slabs. However, a small electrical boundary wire can be used when there is only regular fencing.
 - All pigs should have permanent access to soil for rooting or manipulable material (e.g. multiple earth/sand floors, straw...)
 - Provide a mud bath (to cool in summer, as protection against insects and sunburn).
 - Provide extra rubbing objects (e.g. tree logs, brushes and abrasive



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mats fixed to the stable walls).