

Environmental Enrichment



Rabbits.

Where possible, rabbits should be kept as social groups or in pairs. This can be achieved at weaning age. Rabbits should be given **fresh** hay daily, with recommendation of more hay to dry pelleted feed ratio. Old uneaten hay should be removed daily.

Enrichment for rabbits:

- Cardboard tubes
- Paper wool especial for nest building for pregnant does.
- Aspen chew blocks
- Bottle, cartons, boxes etc. these can be hanging from the ceiling or fronts to provide entertainment.
- Shelf
- Hay can be stuffed into tubes to provide stimulation.
- Apples (cleaned)
- Shavings enough to dig and forage for food.

Animals that are in floor pens or that are singly housed for breeding purposes should be able to interact with others through cages.

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Guinea Pigs.

Where possible, guinea pigs should be kept as social groups or in pairs. Guinea pigs should be supplied with fresh hay daily and old hay removed to prevent soiling.

Enrichment for guinea pigs:

- Cardboard tubes
- Paper wool to hide in
- Aspen chew blocks
- Bottle, cartons, boxes etc.
- Shelf/box in floor pens to provide cover
- Hay can be stuffed into tubes to provide stimulation.
- Apples (cleaned)
- Shavings enough to forage for food.

Animals that are in floor pens or that are singly housed for breeding purposes should be able to interact with others through cages.

Rats.

Where possible, rats should be kept as social groups or in pairs. This can be achieved at weaning age; females can be regrouped at older ages. Males at an older age can be grouped but must be observed for signs of aggression towards each other. They should be at a lower stocking density and have plenty of enrichment.

Enrichment for rats:

- Cardboard tubes
- Paper wool to hide in and nest build for pregnant females
- Aspen chew blocks
- Bottle, cartons, glove boxes.
- DesRes or similar
- Hay can be stuffed into tubes to provide stimulation.
- Sunflower seeds can be popped into carton/bottle to provide stimulation
- Shavings enough to forage for sunflower seeds, (if studies permit).
- Small amount of hay to breeding rats has given them a foraging stimulus and a nesting material. This can be continued upon weaning and into projects (discuss with PPL/PIL)

Animals that are singly housed for breeding purposes should be able to interact with others through cages.

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Mice.

Where possible, mice should be kept as social groups or in pairs. This can be achieved at weaning age; females can be regrouped at older ages. Males should not be moved into social groups past 4 weeks as they will fight.

Enrichment for mice:

- Cardboard tubes
- Paper wool to hide in and nest build
- Aspen chew blocks
- Igloo or hammock
- Sunflower seeds
- Shavings enough to forage for sunflower seeds, (if studies permit).

Fish

Fish are kept in mixed groups where they can freely interact with others.

Group tanks have floating plastic lily pads and floor caves under which they can shelter.

Breeding tanks are temporary overnight housing, in addition to a shelter, marbles are placed on the cage floor to encourage egg laying.

Toads

Have lengths of drain pipe in which they can shelter .