

Rabbit Enrichment



ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

Housing/Environment: (Allentown Caging = 784 sq.in., 17" Height), modified to accommodate expanded cage space for social housing

Structural Enrichment: polycarbonate tunnels or huts (red color) may be used for rabbits who would benefit from them.

Sensory: Human/Animal Socialization & Brushing: Handling during cage changing is purposeful and consists of positive interactions: petting and soft spoken affirmative words, followed by nutritional enrichment

Manipulanda: Several items are provided as the standard for manipulanda. Standard items (pictured) and other forms of manipulanda are used for animals exhibiting concerning behaviors.

Nutritional: Aside from standard feed (Aside from standard feed (Purina Lab Diet® Rabbit Diet HF), the following nutritional enrichment is provided; Hay (one handful per rabbit is offered daily. Fresh Kale, fruity bites, yogurt drops and other items are provided weekly (See nutritional enrichment rotation VC)



SOCIAL HOUSING

Rabbits in captivity can be very aggressive and fighting can be adverse to animal welfare and occupational health standards. As a result rabbits are socially housed, within the guidelines for space in standard CCM cages, in pairs only when compatibility can be determined.



EXERCISE

For this species, cage space provide adequate opportunities for physical activity.

Housing Standards

Rabbit Behavioral Response Plan: Available for Fear & Aggression, Alopecia, Stereotypic Behavior

Social Housing Visual Control: Upon allocation the social housing VC should be referenced to ensure social housing specifications according to the study plan.

Enrichment: Enrichment items are evaluated to ensure usage, safety, practicality and durability

According to the Enhancement Policy; No animal is exempt from all forms of environmental enrichment and any exemptions to social housing or exercise should be considered for only the minimal amount of time or restriction necessary.

Modifications to this SOP must be approved by the CCM Enrichment Program Manager following the criteria of the exemption plan

If Enrichment used is out side of the standard, contact CCM Enrichment Personnel.