



THE HUMANE TOUCH™

Requirements for **Enriched Colony Housing**

The design of Enriched Colony Housing Systems must include the following:

1. Area: a minimum of 116.3 in² (750 cm²) of area per hen, including nest space. This area shall be no less than 17.7 inches (45 cm) in height. Floor slope shall not exceed 14% or 8 degrees.
2. Nest: a dedicated nest box, including an appropriate nest pad to encourage nesting behavior and nest curtains for privacy. There shall be no perches in the nesting area. Nest area shall be a minimum of 8.33% (one twelfth) of the total area.
3. Litter Area: litter area with friable material to allow for dust bathing, pecking, and scratching.
4. Perches: at least 5.9 linear inches (15 cm) of perch per hen, with a minimum of 9.5 inches (24 cm) of clear height above. Perches shall be an appropriate size and of an appropriate material to discourage parasites and to allow for effective cleaning. There shall be a gap of no less than 0.5 inches (1.3 cm) on either side of the perch to allow hens to grip the perches without risk of trapping their claws. Perches shall be held back from nest and litter areas.
5. Feed: at least 4.7 linear inches (12 cm) of feed trough per hen. Hens must have unrestricted access to feed trough.
6. Water: at least 1 nipple drinker or 1 cup per 10 hens, with minimum of 2 within the reach of each hen.
7. Claw Shorteners: claw shortening devices shall be provided and maintained to ensure appropriate claw wear for all hens.
8. Environmental Controls: Facility must include systems for the monitoring and regulation of lighting, temperature, and ventilation; insulation and shading where appropriate; and alarm systems and emergency power generators.
9. Safety: Colonies shall be free of sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury or distress to the hens. Colony design is such that hens have no possibility of coming in contact with paints, wood preservatives, disinfectants, or other toxins. Colony design is such that hens have no possibility of coming in contact with electrical connections.

In addition, where multiple enriched colonies are grouped together:

1. Manure Collection: Each colony in a multi-tier arrangement shall be fitted with dropping belts to minimize dirtying of the hens in tiers below.
2. Where tiers are stacked, it must be demonstrable that caretakers are readily able to inspect, access, and maintain the upper tiers.

**American Humane Certified®
Farm Animal Welfare Program**

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