



American Humane Certified

ENRICHMENT STANDARD

At least one of the following types of environmental enrichment must be provided to the broilers:

- Elevated resting places (e.g. platforms, boxes, ramps, A-frames)
- Foraging enrichments (e.g. straw bales, hanging edible items)
- Outdoor access that meets the exterior access SOPs
- Gradient or line lighting

The enrichments must be evenly distributed throughout the house, provided in sufficient quantity to allow the broilers to use them freely, and not cause injury to broilers.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND OUR ENRICHMENT STANDARD

Environmental enrichment can be greatly beneficial to animal welfare by reducing aggressive behaviors, decreasing boredom, and allowing for freedom to express normal behaviors. Broilers housed in barren environments with little complexity have been reported to move around their environment less, while adding environmental enrichments promotes active behaviors like foraging and walking. The standard for environmental enrichment is inspired by the natural behaviors of broilers and aim to offer environmental complexity that promotes positive welfare. The standard requires that at least one of these four enrichment types be implemented in each barn/house:

Elevated resting places:

- Platforms, boxes, ramps, A-frames, or other elevated objects that allow broilers to rest
- Resting or exploring elevated structures is a natural behavior for both jungle fowl and domesticated chickens

Foraging enrichments:

- Straw bales, hanging edible items, or other enrichments that encourage foraging behavior of broilers
- Offering “foraging enrichments” can improve overall welfare of broilers by increasing frequency of natural behaviors, like dustbathing

Outdoor Access:

- Access to outdoor area
- Broilers can venture outside to practice naturally active behaviors, like dustbathing or walking

Gradient lighting:

- Gradient or line lighting systems, where intense light is offered above the feed area while other areas of the house are more dim
- Broiler raised in gradient lighting environments display higher rates of natural behavior, like dustbathing and walking.

Broiler enrichment will need to continue to be evaluated as more methods of enrichment are tested and as more research is conducted on distribution of enrichment and how to evaluate use.

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