

**§ 3.53 Primary enclosures.**

All primary enclosures for rabbits shall conform to the following requirements:

(a) *General.* (1) Primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the rabbits from injury, to contain them, and to keep predators out.

(2) Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to enable the rabbits to remain dry and clean.

(3) Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so that the rabbits contained therein have convenient access to clean food and water as required in this subpart.

(4) The floors of the primary enclosures shall be constructed so as to protect the rabbits' feet and legs from injury. Litter shall be provided in all primary enclosures having solid floors.

(5) A suitable nest box containing clean nesting material shall be provided in each primary enclosure housing a female with a litter less than one month of age.

(b) *Space requirements for primary enclosures acquired before August 15, 1990.* Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space for the animal to make normal postural adjustments

with adequate freedom of movement. Each rabbit housed in a primary enclosure shall be provided a minimum amount of floor space, exclusive of the space taken up by food and water receptacles, in accordance with the following table:

Category	Individual weights (pounds)	Minimum space per rabbit (square inches)
Groups .....	3 through 5 .....	144
	6 through 8 .....	288
	9 or more .....	432
Individual adults .....	3 through 5 .....	180
	6 through 8 .....	360
	9 through 11 .....	540
	12 or more .....	720
Nursing females .....	3 through 5 .....	576
	6 through 8 .....	720
	9 through 11 .....	864
	12 or more .....	1080

(c) *Space requirements for primary enclosures acquired on or after August 15, 1990.* (1) Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space for the animal to make normal postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.

(2) Each rabbit housed in a primary enclosure shall be provided a minimum amount of floor space, exclusive of the space taken up by food and water receptacles, in accordance with the following table:

	Individual weights		Minimum floor space		Minimum interior height	
	kg	lbs	m <sup>2</sup>	ft <sup>2</sup>	cm	in
Individual rabbits (weaned) .....	<2	<4.4	0.14	1.5	35.56	14
	2-4	4.4-8.8	0.28	3.0	35.56	14
	4-5.4	8.8-11.9	0.37	4.0	35.56	14
	>5.4	>11.9	0.46	5.0	35.56	14
	Weight of nursing female		Minimum floor space/female & litter		Minimum interior height	
	kg	lbs	m <sup>2</sup>	ft <sup>2</sup>	cm	in
Females with litters .....	<2	<4.4	0.37	4.0	35.56	14
	2-4	4.4-8.8	0.46	5.0	35.56	14
	4-5.4	8.8-11.9	0.56	6.0	35.56	14
	>5.4	>11.9	0.70	7.5	35.56	14

(3) Innovative primary enclosures that do not precisely meet the space requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this section, but that do provide rabbits with a sufficient volume of space and the opportunity to express species-typical behavior, may be used at research

facilities when approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and by dealers and exhibitors when approved by the Administrator.

[32 FR 3273, Feb. 24, 1967, as amended at 55 FR 28883, July 16, 1990]

### § 3.54

#### ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS

#### § 3.54 Feeding.

(a) Rabbits shall be fed at least once each day except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate veterinary care. The food shall be free from contamination, wholesome, palatable and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the rabbit.

(b) Food receptacles shall be accessible to all rabbits in a primary enclosure and shall be located so as to minimize contamination by excreta. All food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitized at least once every 2 weeks. If self feeders are used for the feeding of dry feed, measures must be taken to prevent molding, deterioration or caking of the feed.

#### § 3.55 Watering.

Sufficient potable water shall be provided daily except as might otherwise be required to provide adequate veterinary care. All watering receptacles shall be sanitized when dirty: *Provided, however,* That such receptacles shall be sanitized at least once every 2 weeks.

#### § 3.56 Sanitation.

(a) *Cleaning of primary enclosures.* (1) Primary enclosures shall be kept reasonably free of excreta, hair, cobwebs and other debris by periodic cleaning. Measures shall be taken to prevent the wetting of rabbits in such enclosures if a washing process is used.

(2) In primary enclosures equipped with solid floors, soiled litter shall be removed and replaced with clean litter at least once each week.

(3) If primary enclosures are equipped with wire or mesh floors, the troughs or pans under such enclosures shall be cleaned at least once each week. If worm bins are used under such enclosures they shall be maintained in a sanitary condition.

(b) *Sanitization of primary enclosures.* (1) Primary enclosures for rabbits shall be sanitized at least once every 30 days in the manner provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(2) Prior to the introduction of rabbits into empty primary enclosures

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previously occupied, such enclosures shall be sanitized in the manner provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(3) Primary enclosures for rabbits shall be sanitized by washing them with hot water (180 °F.) and soap or detergent as in a mechanical cage washer, or by washing all soiled surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a safe and effective disinfectant, or by cleaning all soiled surfaces with live steam or flame.

(c) *Housekeeping.* Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this subpart. Premises shall remain free of accumulations of trash.

(d) *Pest control.* An effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.

#### § 3.57 Employees.

A sufficient number of employees shall be utilized to maintain the prescribed level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart. Such practices shall be under the supervision of an animal caretaker who has a background in animal husbandry or care.

#### § 3.58 Classification and separation.

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure shall be maintained in compatible groups, with the following additional restrictions:

(a) Rabbits shall not be housed in the same primary enclosure with any other species of animals unless required for scientific reasons.

(b) Rabbits under quarantine or treatment for a communicable disease shall be separated from other rabbits and other susceptible species of animals in such a manner as to minimize dissemination of such disease.

#### § 3.59 [Reserved]

#### TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS

AUTHORITY: Sections 3.60 through 3.66 issued under secs. 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 21; 80 Stat. 353; 84 Stat. 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564; 90 Stat. 418, 420, 423 (7 U.S.C. 2133, 2135, 2136,