The guide for good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses - factsheet

Stable – indoor housing

The need for social contact with other horses should be kept in mind when designing accommodation for horses.

How to do it well...

- When considering space requirements, the time the horse spends in the box should be taken into account. The box should be larger if the horse is stabled for a major part of the day.
- Individual boxes should fit the size of the horse so that the horse can lie down in natural lateral position (with extended legs, neck and head), turn around and get up unimpeded, and stand in a natural position.
- The lying area for horses should be nonslippery and provided with an adequate amount of suitable bedding material to ensure a dry and comfortable resting area.
- The upper part of the partitions between boxes should not be solid, but allow horses to see each other and allow adequate ventilation.
- Dust levels, relative air humidity, temperature and gas concentrations should be kept to non-harmful levels.



It is recommended to give daily access to paddocks or pasture.

Group housing

- ✓ The total floor area should allow free movement, sufficient access and space at feeding and watering stations
- ✓ The bedded lying area should be large enough to allow all horses to lie down undisturbed at the same time
- ✓ Dead-ends and sharp corners should be avoided to prevent horses from being trapped
- The design of the group housing system should ensure that all horses are able to move away from each other and to access feed and water at any time
- ✓ Care should be taken to select groups of horses that are compatible

Photos are used in this factsheet to illustrate some conditions. They should not be considered to illustrate the only solution to the conditions described