

Housing Systems for Layer Chickens  
Animal Welfare Committee First Draft - October 2019

The primary consideration in construction of housing, feeders, and waterers should be the welfare of the birds. Housing systems should provide for expression of important natural behaviors, protect hens from disease, injury and predation, and promote food safety. Housing configurations should be such that manure from birds in upper housing levels does not drop directly on birds in lower levels. Feeder space should be sufficient to permit all birds to eat at the same time. The AVMA encourages further research and development on housing systems for laying hens.

*For more information on housing systems for layer chickens, see AVMA resources and policies: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/LiteratureReviews/Pages/Welfare-Implications-of-Laying-Hen-Housing.aspx> and <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Layer-Hen-Housing-Systems.aspx>*