Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant

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Bedding & Housing for Patients

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Objectives

- Describe the bedding and housing requirements for small animals
- Describe the bedding and housing requirements for large animals
- Discuss the importance of proper bedding and housing to patient recovery
- Discuss the legal requirements regarding animal housing
Introduction

- Caring for patients
  - Animal’s physical comfort
  - Animal’s peaceful rest
Housing Systems

- Two environmental levels
  - Inside stall or cage
    - Temperature, humidity, floor space
  - Outside stall or cage
    - Light, noise levels, sight distractions
Housing design features

- Cage or stall space – freedom of movement
  - Cleaned and disinfected daily
- Safe confinement – prevent injuries
- Ventilation – 16 air changes per hour
  - Fresh oxygen
  - Removes heat
  - 30-70% humidity
  - 64°-84° F temperature
- Normal functions – defecation and urination
  - Waste removed by daily schedule or as needed
Absorbent bedding

- Cautions:
  - Contaminating substances
  - Animal chews and ingests

Food and water – accessible

- Never share or exchange utensils
- Clean, sanitized utensils