

Social housing of Göttingen Minipigs

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Göttingen Minipigs are social and curious animals with a strong motivation for performing various types of social behaviours. Appropriate social housing should therefore be prioritized. Although maintaining stable groups is optimal, animals may need to be regrouped for study, practical or veterinary reasons. Fighting tendencies tend to increase with age in male animals, and older male Göttingen Minipigs should not be regrouped. However, in young male animals and female animals of all ages regrouping can generally be performed successfully. Smooth and refined formation of new hierarchies can be promoted with various proactive measures taken before, during, and after regrouping, e.g. by providing plenty of space and distractions. If single housing is unavoidable, steps should be taken to ensure that Göttingen Minipigs can exert social behaviours, e.g. through optimized pen design and socialization sessions.