

Group housing: Tips for the design of lying areas

Group housing is considered to be a more animal-friendly housing system than box housing. In addition to sufficient space, an innovative design of the functional areas is crucial for the overall efficiency of herd management. It is the only way that higher and lower ranking animals can live together peacefully. Among various other factors, the design of the lying area plays a key role.



Lying areas must be resting areas

The design of the lying area must ensure that the lying animals get as much rest as possible. There must thus be adequate space for lower ranking animals to lie undisturbed while allowing higher ranking animals to undertake their role as observers and protectors from the lying area. In addition to sufficient space and screens, the right surface is essential.

Ground design: comfortable and economical at the same time

When designing the surface in the lying area, the needs of both horses and humans have to be considered. Horses need a dry, flexible and thermally insulated surface. These requirements are met by soft rubber mats. At the same time, the mats offer advantages for livestock owners, as very little bedding is needed, which significantly reduces the amount of work effort and straw required. Ideally suited for lying areas are the flexible BELMONDO® Trend puzzle mat and the jointless BELMONDO® Kingsize Duo large-area flooring.

Tip for efficient use of lying areas

To ensure the most efficient use of the lying area, the BELMONDO® Kingsize Duo mat can be divided into sections using a special, rounded profile (maxiPROFIL). This is a clever way to create individual and well-defined lying areas. It prevents higher ranking animals taking up more space than necessary. The maxiPROFIL joint covering from KRAIBURG is as "uncomfortable" as it needs to be while still being sufficiently gentle, thereby creating a structure in the lying area that is suitable for horses.

