

1-1. Environmental Enrichment and Human Contact with Animal

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In animal welfare, we focus on the physical and mental health of the animals with reference to “Five freedoms.” Five freedoms that farm animals are entitled to are as follows: (1.) freedom from hunger and thirst; (2.) freedom from discomfort; (3.) freedom from pain, injury, or disease; (4.) freedom to express normal behavior; and (5.) freedom from fear and distress (FAWC 1992). We also consider animal welfare on some phases of livestock production system, such as management and environment in farm, transport and slaughterhouse. In recent years, the animal welfare standard for transport, slaughter and killing has been established and on-farm animal welfare assessment has developed. The methods of rearing livestock have been studied for animal welfare such as in nutritional studies about feed that satisfies their nutritive requirement (freedom from hunger), studies about environmental resources such as bedding and ventilation (freedom from discomfort), and veterinary studies about preventing injury or disease (freedom from injury or disease). It is also important to investigate the psychological aspects of animals in terms of freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from fear and distress. Environmental enrichment and establishing human-animal bond (for example, brushing) as the methods for improving the psychological aspects of animals in intensive animal husbandry is known. Environmental enrichment is not only for livestock animals and in laboratory animals such as rat and fruit flies. It was reported that environmental enrichment could improve biological function of laboratory animals.