

EDITORIAL



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The traditional housing system for intensive rabbit production is based on cages with wire floor or plastic slats. Following the ban of conventional cages for laying hens, **animal welfare organisation in Europe focussed their activity on caging of growing rabbits and does**, regardless of the risks of diseases and aggression borne damages in non-cage systems.

National rabbit welfare regulations have already led to a sharp drop in rabbit production in Switzerland and Germany. **These regulations may be used as blueprints for welfare legislation in other countries animal species.**

The present debate on rabbit welfare may not only be relevant for rabbits but also for the development of other farm animal species.

Professor Zsolt Szendrő is a well-known scientist in rabbit management and behavior. **We are glad that he is prepared to share his long-term experience in the present article.**



Werner Bessei
Editor