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Authors: Fernanda M. Tahamtani, Lena K. Hinrichsen, Anja B. Riber



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Laying hens performing gregarious nesting show less pacing behaviour during the pre-laying period

Fernanda M. Tahamtani*, Lena K. Hinrichsen, Anja B. Riber

Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Science and Technology, Aarhus University, Blichers Allé 20, P.O. Box 50, DK-8830 Tjele, Denmark.

*Corresponding author: fernandatahamtani@anis.au.dk, Tel.: +45 8715 8259; Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Science and Technology, Aarhus University, Blichers Allé 20, P.O. Box 50, DK-8830 Tjele, Denmark

Research Highlights

- There was no relationship between nesting behaviour and body weight, fear, sociality or dominance hierarchy.
- Intermediary nesters performed more pre-laying pacing behaviour compared to gregarious nesters.

Abstract

The phenomenon of gregarious nesting occurs when hens choose to enter and lay their eggs in a nest box which is already occupied by one or more hens, even when an empty nest box is also available. It has been suggested that inexperienced hens copy the nest selection preferences of experienced hens until their own preferences have developed. In addition, gregarious nesting has been found to be an

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