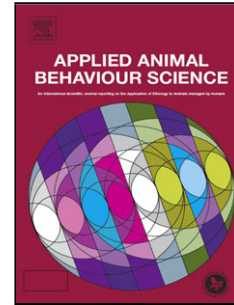


Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0168-1591(17)30254-X
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2017.09.004>
Reference: APPLAN 4510

To appear in: *APPLAN*

Received date: 2-5-2017
Revised date: 2-8-2017
Accepted date: 5-9-2017

Please cite this article as: Sutherland, Mhairi A., Lowe, Gemma L., Watson, Trevor J., Ross, Colleen M., Rapp, Delphine, Zobel, Gosia A., Dairy goats prefer to use different flooring types to perform different behaviours. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2017.09.004>

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Dairy goats prefer to use different flooring types to perform different behaviours

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Highlights

- Goats preferred to lie on rubber mats and plastic slats
- Goats preferred to eliminate on wood shavings
- Providing goats with multiple flooring options may better meet their needs

ABSTRACT

Flooring is an important component of indoor housing systems for livestock as it can impact animal hygiene and welfare. Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the lying and elimination preferences of goats, as well as their relative udder cleanliness, when presented with four different flooring types. At 8 months of age, 32 non-lactating female Saanen cross does (45.4 ± 6.10 kg) were restricted to one of four different flooring types for 10 days (2.9

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