**Annex B – Questionnaire on housing systems of Foxes kept for fur production**

Biological Hazards, Animal Health and Welfare (BIOHAW) Unit

**ANNEX B -** Questions from the EFSA working group (WG) on **housing systems** of **foxes kept for fur production**

This request is relevant to the welfare of foxes, considering the following species:

* Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes* and also known as ‘grey fox’)
* Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*, previously classified as *Alopex lagopus* and also known as ‘blue fox’);

Including **their** **hybrids** kept for fur production. The call for evidence encompasses all categories of animals involved in fur production, including breeding animals, juveniles, and those (growing animals) being raised specifically for pelting.

This Annex encompasses all categories of animals involved in fur production, including breeding animals, juveniles, and those (growing animals) being raised specifically for pelting purposes. It is important to note that killing for pelting falls outside the scope of this mandate.

The questions mainly relate to the definitions and descriptions of **animal categories** and **husbandry systems** to be used in the EFSA’s Scientific Opinion on the welfare of animals kept for fur production in the following **Tables 1 and 2**.

Please compile the tables **with recorded data or estimates for tables 1b, 1c and Table 2.**

# Table 1 : **Identification of animal categories and husbandry systems**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Identification and definition of animal categories** | | | | | |
| The following animal categories of breeders are identified in **Foxes kept for fur production.**  Please confirm if this classification is representative and if the definitions are comprehensive; otherwise, type an alternative improved definition into the relevant cell below. | | | | | |
| **Animal category** | **Definition** | | | | |
| Immature breeders | Young breeders (male and female) selected to become future adult breeders. | | | | | |
| Adult Male breeders | Adult males kept for breeding (natural mating and/or artificial insemination). | | | | |
| Non-pregnant adult female breeders | Mature female before first pregnancy, or female after weaning her cubs and before the new pregnancy. | | | | |
| Pregnant females | Gravid female until the perinatal period. | | | | |
| Lactating females | Female breeder between the neonatal period and the weaning of the cubs. | | | | |
| Suckling cubs | Cubs from birth to weaning. | | | | |
| Juvenile cubs | Weaned cubs after separation from the mother until moulting. | | | | |
| Growing animals | Animals from moult until pelting. | | | | |
| 1. **Identification of the husbandry systems for the different categories** | | | | | |
| The husbandry systems (HS) identified by the EFSA WG for the mandate on the welfare of animals kept for fur production are Outdoor individual enclosures, Outdoor collective enclosures, Indoor individual enclosures, and Indoor collective enclosures.   * The term **‘enclosure’** refers to any unit used to house animals, encompassing a variety of structures such as cages, pens, boxes, or other forms of containment. These enclosures can be arranged in various configurations, including single or multiple tiers, and may be positioned on the ground or elevated. Additionally, the organization of these enclosures can vary, with some being structured around a central corridor, facilitating access and management, while others may not follow this layout. * **‘Outdoor’** is related to any husbandry system in which enclosures are located within open-sided sheds (i.e. including those with barren surroundings or with trees, bushes, solid fences or buildings near the enclosure). In contrast, **‘Indoor’** is related to husbandry systems having enclosures within closed-sided sheds, closed sidewalls or are placed inside a building.   **Is this list complete?** If not, *please add under ‘other’ any missing husbandry systems (also if used less frequently)*  **Please indicate with a yes (Y) or no (N) if the husbandry system applies to each animal category of foxes.** | | | | | |
| **Animal categories** | **Outdoor individual enclosure** | **Outdoor group enclosure** | **Indoor individual enclosure** | **Indoor group enclosure** | **Other *(please specify)*** |
| Immature breeders |  |  |  |  |  |
| Adult male breeders |  |  |  |  |  |
| Non-pregnant adult female breeders |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pregnant females |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lactating females |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suckling cubs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Juvenile cubs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Growing animals |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Please note that in Table 2, you will be requested to provide information on the husbandry systems you have answered with ‘Yes’ in this table)* | | | | | | |
| **c) Duration in the husbandry systems** | | | | | |
| **Please specify for how long** each animal category of **foxes,** within a given species, is kept in the husbandry system (e.g., all their lives or part of their lives in days, weeks, months). *Please specify the duration for each animal category kept within the husbandry system (e.g., for 3 weeks, their whole life) and the age (e.g., until 6 months of age) in both species of foxes.* | | | | | |
| **Husbandry systems** | **Outdoor individual enclosure** | **Outdoor group enclosure** | **Indoor individual enclosure** | **Indoor group enclosure** | **Other *(please specify)*** |
| Immature breeders |  |  |  |  |  |
| Adult male breeders |  |  |  |  |  |
| Non-pregnant adult female breeders |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pregnant females |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lactating females |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suckling cubs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Juvenile cubs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Growing animals |  |  |  |  |  |

# Table 2: **Information on the husbandry systems.**

(Please compile only for the husbandry systems you indicated with a “Yes” in table 1.b and strike through irrelevant questions).

| **Question** | **Answer – Foxes** | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Immature breeders** | **Adult male breeders** | **Non-pregnant adult female breeders** | **Pregnant females** | **Lactating females** | **Suckling cubs** | **Juvenile cubs** | **Growing animals** |
| 1. ***Outdoor individual/group enclosure*** | | | | | | | | |
| * 1. What is the proportion of animals kept in outdoor enclosures out of the total number of animals in each category?   *Please provide the answer (if relevant) for:*   1. Individual enclosure 2. Group enclosure (*please specify if in pair/couple or group)*. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Please specify the **reasons** for keeping animals in outdoor housing and in individual and/or group enclosures. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. What are the usual **L, W and H dimensions** for the outdoor enclosure (individual unit, not the whole building)?   *Please provide your answers in cm for:*   1. Individual enclosure 2. Group enclosure: pair/couple 3. Group enclosure: groups (please indicate the number of animals in the group) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. For outdoor group enclosures, what is the **usual animal stocking density**?   *Please provide your answer in animals/m2 and specify if it is in pair/couple or group.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are outdoor enclosures placed directly on the ground or elevated?   *If both types exist, please specify the % of animals kept in each system.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are outdoor enclosures kept on a single row, or are multiple rows used (i.e., multi-tiers)?   *If multiple rows are used, please indicate the average number and the range (min and max).* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. How **are males and females** kept in outdoor enclosures?  1. Always males and females together  *If so, please provide the sex ratio (males/females).* 2. Separate rearing of males and females |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which type of **drinkers** are used in outdoor individual enclosures?   *Are drinkers frost-protected?*  *Please describe the drinking system or provide images if possible.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which type of **drinkers** are used in outdoor group enclosures?   *Please specify if in pair/couple, group, and how many drinkers per animal.*  *Are drinkers frost-protected?*  *Please describe the drinking system or provide images if possible.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is a **feeder** available in outdoor individual enclosures?   *If yes, of which type?* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is a **feeder** available in an outdoor group enclosure?   *If yes, of which type?*  *Please specify if in pair/couple, group, and how many feeders per animal.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are outdoor individual enclosures provided with any **enrichment** (e.g., litter or foraging material, objects)?   *If yes, please specify the type of enrichment.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are outdoor collective enclosures provided with any **enrichment** (e.g., litter or edible material, point-source objects, etc.)?   *If yes, please specify the type of enrichment and, if in pair/couple, group.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **nests** provided in outdoor individual enclosures?   (Nests are intended as any nest box or shelter inside or annexed to the enclosure provided to any animal, not only to parturient females.)   1. *If yes, please specify the type and dimension of the nests.* 2. *Please also describe the nest features (e.g., shape of the nest, presence of litter or any substrate, walls and roof and any relevant information)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **nests** provided in outdoor group enclosures?   (Nests are intended as any nest box or shelter inside or annexed to the enclosure provided to any animal, not only to parturient females.)   1. *If yes, please specify the type and dimension of the nests.* 2. *Please also describe the nest features (e.g., shape of the nest, presence of litter or any substrate, walls and roof and any relevant information)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **elevated platforms** used in outdoor enclosures?   *If yes, please specify how many and the main features  (e.g. dimensions, material, shape, etc.)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which **floor type** is used in this husbandry system?  1. *Please specify if wired mesh, slatted floor or concrete floor is used.* 2. *In the case of mixed types of floors, please specify the types and in which proportion they are used.* 3. *Please also specify if other substrates are used (e.g. rubber mats)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is **litter** provided within the floor, and if yes, what type of litter and in what amount? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. How is **climate control** achieved?   *Please include ventilation, heating/cooling systems specifications, and protection from wind, sun and atmospheric agents.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. ***Indoor individual/group enclosure*** | | | | | | | | |
| * 1. What is the proportion of animals kept in indoor enclosures out of the total number of animals in each category?   *Please provide the answer (if relevant) for:*   1. Individual enclosure 2. Group enclosure (*please specify if in pair/couple or group)*. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Please specify the reasons for keeping animals in indoor housing and individual and/or group enclosures. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. What are the usual **dimensions** in L, W and H for indoor enclosure (individual units, not the whole building)?   *Please provide your answers in cm for:*   1. Individual enclosure 2. Group enclosure: pair/couples 3. Group enclosure: groups (please indicate the number of animals in the group) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. For indoor group enclosures, what is the **usual animal stocking density**?   *Please provide your answer in animals/m2 and specify if it is in pair/couple or group.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are indoor enclosures placed directly on the ground or elevated?   *If both types exist, please specify the % of animals kept in each system.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are indoor enclosures kept on a single row, or are multiple rows used (i.e. multi-tiers)?   *If multiple rows are used, please indicate the average number and the range (min and max).* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. How **are males and females** kept in indoor enclosures?  1. *Always males and females together. If so, please provide the sex ratio (males/females).* 2. *Separate rearing of males and females.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which type of **drinkers** are used in individual enclosures?  1. *Are drinkers frost-protected?* 2. *Please describe the drinking system or provide images if possible.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which type of **drinkers** are used in group enclosures?  1. *Please specify if in a pair/couple or group and how many drinkers per animal.* 2. *Are drinkers frost-protected?* 3. *Please describe the drinking system or provide images if possible.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is a **feeder** available in individual enclosures?   *If yes, of which type?* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is a **feeder** available in a group enclosure?   *If yes, of which type?*  *Please specify if in pair/couple, group, and how many feeders per animal.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are individual enclosures provided with **enrichments** (e.g., litter or foraging material, objects)?   *If yes, please specify the type of enrichment.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are collective enclosures provided with **enrichments** (e.g., litter or edible material, point-source objects, etc.)?   *If yes, please specify the type of enrichments and if in pair/couple or group.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **nests** provided in indoor individual enclosures?   (Nests are intended as any nest box or shelter inside or annexed to the enclosure provided to any animal, not only to parturient females.)   1. *If yes, please specify the type and dimension of the nests.* 2. *Please also describe the nest features (e.g. the shape of the nest, presence of litter or any substrate, walls and roof and any relevant information)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **nests** provided in indoor group enclosures?   (Nests are intended as any nest box or shelter inside or annexed to the enclosure provided to any animal, not only to parturient females.)   1. *If yes, please specify the type and dimension of the nests.* 2. *Please also describe the nest features (e.g. the shape of the nest, presence of litter or any substrate, walls and roof and any relevant information)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **elevated platforms** used in indoor enclosures?   *If yes, please specify how many and main features (e.g. dimension, material, shape, etc.)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which **floor type** is used in this husbandry system?  1. *Please specify if wired mesh, slatted floor or concrete floor is used.* 2. *In the case of mixed types of floor, please specify the types and in which proportion they are used.* 3. *Please also specify if other substrates are used (e.g. rubber mats)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is **litter** provided within the floor, and if yes, what type of litter and in what amount? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. How is **climate control** achieved?   *Please include ventilation, heating/cooling systems specifications, and protection from wind, sun and atmospheric agents.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. ***Other husbandry system …(please specify)…*** | | | | | | | | |
| * 1. What is the proportion of animals kept in other husbandry systems from the total number of animals in each category?   *Please provide the answer (if relevant) for:*   1. *Individual enclosure* 2. *Group enclosure (please specify if in pair/couple or group).* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Please specify the **reasons** for keeping animals in this husbandry system. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. What are the usual **L, W and H dimensions** for the enclosure?   *Please provide your answers in cm for:*   1. For individual enclosures. 2. For group enclosure: pair/couples 3. For group enclosure: groups (please indicate the number of animals in the group) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. For collective enclosure, what is the **usual animal stocking density**?   *Please provide your answer in animals/m2 and specify if it is in pair/couple or group.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is this husbandry system placed directly on the ground or elevated?   *If both types exist, please specify the % of animals kept in each system.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are these enclosures kept on a single row, or multiple rows are used (i.e. multi-tiers)?   *If multiple rows are used, please indicate the average number and the range (min and max).* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. How **are males and females** kept?  1. Always males and females together  *If so, please provide the sex ratio (males/females).* 2. Separate rearing of males and females |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which type of **drinkers** are used in individual enclosures?   *Are drinkers frost-protected?*  *Please describe the drinking system or provide images if possible.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which type of **drinkers** are used in group enclosures?   *Please specify if in pair/couple, group, and how many drinkers per animal.*  *Are drinkers frost-protected?*  *Please describe the drinking system or provide images if possible.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is a **feeder** available in individual enclosures?   *If yes, of which type?* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is a **feeder** available in a group enclosure?   *If yes, of which type?*  *Please specify if in pair/couple, group, and how many feeders per animal.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are individual enclosures provided with any **enrichment** (e.g., litter or foraging material, objects, etc.)?   *If yes, please specify the type of enrichment.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are group enclosures provided with any **enrichment** (e.g., litter or edible material, point-source objects, etc.)?   *If yes, please specify the type of enrichment and, if in pair/couple or group.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **nests** provided in individual enclosures?   (Nests are intended as any nest box or shelter inside or annexed to the enclosure provided to any animal, not only to parturient females.)   1. *If yes, please specify the type and dimension of the nests.* 2. *Please also describe the nest features (e.g. the shape of the nest, presence of litter or any substrate, walls and roof and any relevant information)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **nests** provided in group enclosures?   (Nests are intended as any nest box or shelter inside or annexed to the enclosure provided to any animal, not only to parturient females.)   1. *If yes, please specify the type and dimension of the nests.* 2. *Please also describe the nest features (e.g. the shape of the nest, presence of litter or any substrate, walls and roof and any relevant information)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are **elevated platforms** used?   *If yes, please specify how many and main features (e.g. dimension, material, shape, etc.)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Which **floor type** is used in this husbandry system?  1. *Please specify if wired mesh, slatted floor or concrete floor is used.* 2. *For mixed types of floors, please specify the types and in which proportion they are used.* 3. *Please also specify if other substrates are used (e.g. rubber mats)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Is **litter** provided within the floor, and if yes, what type of litter and in what amount? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. How is **climate control achieved**?     *Please include ventilation, heating/cooling systems specifications, and protection from wind, sun and atmospheric agents.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |