



The Dreamstall

A holistic approach in freestall design



World's first freestall system that accomodates all the natural body positions of a cow



Patent pending



Cowhouse International is specialized in housing dairy cows in a natural way ensuring a higher standard of animal welfare. By observing the behaviour of cows closely, Cowhouse has developed products that allow cows to behave in a barn like in a natural environment.

Cowhouse International

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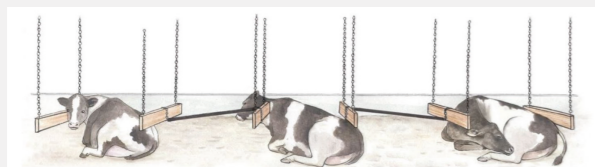
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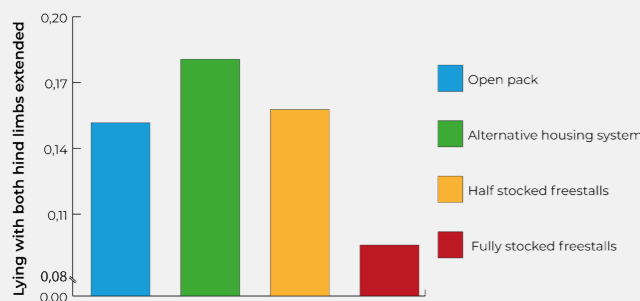
Welcome to a new journey in space with the Dreamstall!

Research “A Freestall reimaged”, University of British Columbia

Researchers at the University of British Columbia have documented in a recent study the effects of several housing methods on lying time and specific lying postures associated with cow comfort. They created an “alternative” housing area by modifying a traditional freestall pen and included flexible partitions of wooden planks to create wider lying areas.



They found that postures such as lying with outstretched limbs or with the neck curled, were least frequently observed in freestalls. Importantly these postures were not compromised in the alternative housing pen and the open pack. In contrast, stall cleanliness was highest in freestalls.



The researchers concluded that an alternative stall design can provide the cow-comfort benefits of an open pack, but with improvements in stall cleanliness. The hope they expressed that this research will help inform the development of new stall designs that improve cow comfort and work well for the farmers who care for them.

Bron: A free stall reimaged, The University of British Columbia, 2021

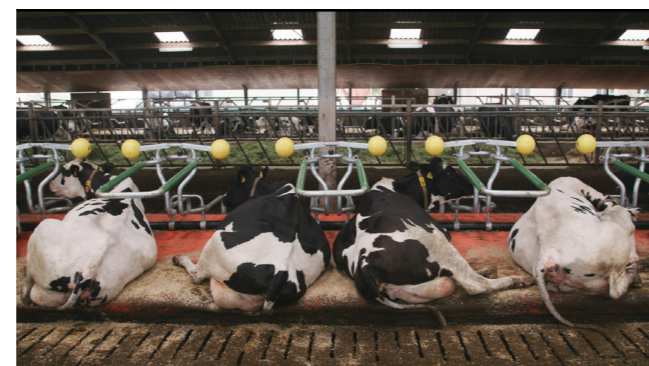
After several years of research Cowhouse International succeeded in designing such a stall where cows can adopt lying postures like in the alternative stall whilst stall cleanliness is similar to conventional freestalls.

With over a billion in total, cows are the most common farm animals on earth. They are well adapted for grazing. A wide mouth with specialized teeth that enables them to take in large quantities of grass in a short space of time. Once full, they look for a safe and comfortable place to rest and ruminate. When cows are housed in a barn they need a safe and comfortable place to rest too. Just like in a natural environment.

After years of research Cowhouse has succeeded in creating a resting place for a cow which can accommodate all her natural body positions. The new freestall system called “Dreamstall” offers her all the freedom she needs when standing or lying down.

Dreamstall

The Dreamstall is a new holistic approach in freestall-design. It is the first freestall system ever where cows can take all their natural standing and lying positions. The unique features are the absence of neckrail and vertical dividers.



The Dreamstall has no neckrail and conventional dividers anymore.

The neckrail has been replaced by two spherical bodies with a gap in between allowing the cow to stand with her head up. This is important as she has a limited field of vision and needs to look around to see if there is any danger from predators.



The conventional dividers have been replaced by horizontal guiding frames for positioning the cow straight in the stall. In this way the stallbase can be made significantly wider without compromising stall-cleanliness. Cows will be able to rest in every natural body-position without restrictions from pipes or neighbouring cows.

Spherical bodies

To allow a cow standing in the stall with her head-up, the neckrail has been removed and replaced by two spherical bodies with a 40 cm wide gap in between.

When entering the stall the cow stops on the right position as soon as she touches the two bodies on her shoulders. She can stand now with all her legs in the stall. She can move her head freely up and down without any limitations. The spherical bodies are liftable for extra comfort when she stands up.



Guiding-frames

To allow cows lying in every natural body position, the vertical dividers have been removed and replaced by horizontal guiding-frames. There is a gap of 90 cm between the frames.

When a cow enters the stall she will be positioned straight between the two guiding-frames. Once lying, she does not touch any dividers and she has plenty of space around her. The Dreamstall can be made as wide as you would like. Stall cleanliness will not be an issue anymore. We recommend a stallwidth of 140 - 160 cm.

