



Mink (mustela vison)

| Species characteristics and requirements | Legal requirements | | | | | |
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| | Switzerland | Finland | Denmark | Russia | USA | China |
| <p>Habitat and behavior: Lives in damp regions and along waters (brooks, rivers, lakes, oceans) with dense shore vegetation. Territories run along shores and extend to 2.5 – 6 km. Swims and dives, rummages and zigzags back and forth. Climbs up trees. Wanders up to 50 km looking for new places to live.</p> <p>Resting and sleeping: Rests, feeds and sleeps in deserted caves, dens or under rootstocks.</p> | <p>Species-appropriate enclosures and shelter</p> <p>Separable enclosures</p> <p>Enclosure surface: 15 m²</p> <p>Possibility to swim</p> <p>Basin size: 1 m²; 0.2 m deep</p> <p>Behavior-appropriate floors, low risk of injury</p> <p>Free movement</p> <p>Body functions and behavior should not be disturbed</p> <p>Sleeping boxes</p> | <p>No legal stipulations, only EU recommendations</p> <p>Cages should be positioned at a sufficient height above the cage floor</p> <p>Cage size: 0.255 m² for 1- 2 animals If > 2 animals: plus 0.085 m² / animal. Height: at least 45 cm Minimum width: 30 cm</p> <p>Cages should contain species-appropriate stimuli. Action to be taken in the case of stereotypical behavior or self-mutilation</p> <p>Possibility to swim</p> <p>Cages should not be stacked</p> <p>Nesting box with litter on solid ground, no risk of injury</p> | <p>No legal stipulations, only EU recommendations</p> <p>Cages should be positioned at a sufficient height above the cage floor.</p> <p>Cage size: 0.255 m² for 1- 2 animals If > 2 animals: plus 0.085 m² / animal. Height: at least 45 cm Minimum width: 30 cm</p> <p>Cages should contain species-appropriate stimuli. Action to be taken in the case of stereotypical behavior or self-mutilation</p> <p>Possibility to swim</p> <p>Cages should not be stacked</p> <p>Nesting box with litter on solid ground, no risk of injury</p> | <p>No legal stipulations, no recommendations, everything is allowed</p> <p>Usually held on farms in standard mesh wire floor cages: 0.27 m² surface, usually 30 - 40 cm high</p> <p>Nesting boxes with wire roofs</p> <p>Hundreds of cages rowed up one next to the other</p> | <p>No legal stipulations, no recommendations, everything is allowed</p> <p>Usually held on farms in standard mesh wire floor cages: 0.27 m² surface, usually 30 - 40 cm high</p> <p>Nesting boxes with wire roofs</p> <p>Hundreds of cages rowed up one next to the other</p> | <p>No legal stipulations, no recommendations, everything is allowed</p> <p>Usually held on farms in standard mesh wire floor cages: 0.27 m² surface, usually 30 - 40 cm high</p> <p>Nesting boxes with wire roofs</p> <p>Hundreds of cages rowed up one next to the other</p> |
| <p>Food and excrements: Swims to hunt and dives. Rummages in soil and in the caves of rodents. Good hunters thanks to its pronounced sense of</p> | <p>Food must be species-appropriate and meet the animals' requirements</p> <p>Species-typical activities linked to feeding must be</p> | | | | | |

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| smell. Also has an excellent sense of hearing. Hears noises made by rodents and then surprise-attacks. Has strong jaw muscles and a strong bite. Mainly eats small mammals but also hunts and feeds on birds, fish, amphibians, and invertebrate. Marks with excrements and uses gland secretions in form of mutual recognition. | possible The animals must be given suitable places to defecate and urinate | | | | | |
| Social organization: Pronounced loners; react aggressively to foreign adult conspecifics, except during mating season. Social binding between the mother animal and her young. The young stay with the mother animal for 3 months. | Appropriate social contact with conspecifics; possibility to withdraw. The largest possible number of grown animals and their young. Stock control | Young animals should be held in groups | Young animals should be held in groups | | | |

Sources

Legal stipulations (Switzerland) regarding:

- Space requirement, radius of action: addendum 2 tab. 1 Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance
- Food intake: art. 4.2 Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance
- Food plan: art. 3.1 Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance, art. 3 and 4 Swiss
- Excrements: art. 3.1 Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance
- Social organization: addendum 2, preliminary remark B Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance
- Movement: art. 3, art. 7 Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance
- Resting: art. 7 Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance, addendum 1, tab. 1
- Bringing up of young: art. 3 Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance addendum 2, preliminary remark B
- Common farm holding: prohibited in Switzerland

International (state: November 1, 2010)

- EU recommendations: Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes (T-AP) Recommendation concerning Fur Animals, adopted by the Standing Committee on June 22, 1999
- In Russia, in 2010, Prime Minister Putin sent a draft for an Animal Protection Act back to the Council for revision
- In China, the first Animal Protection Act is currently in the process of consultation