

TABLE 1 – STOCKING DENSITIES – CAGED BIRDS

	Length of Bird cms	Floor Area (sq cm)		Cage Height cms
		Single	Each Additional	
Budgerigar		650	200	30
Canary		650	250	30
Cockatiel		1000	250	40
Finches	up to 12.5	650	100	30
	12.5 – 17.5	750	150	30
	over 17.5	1000	200	30
Parakeet	up to 25	1000	250	30
	25 – 35	1000	250	40
	over 35	1400	450	50
Parrot	up to 30	800	275	40
	30 – 35	1250	625	50
	over 35	1500	750	60

1. No species of bird shall be housed in accommodation which does not allow that species sufficient space for natural free and full wing stretching and the number of birds housed shall be such that overcrowding does not significantly reduce that freedom. Long tailed birds or birds in full plumage must be provided with properly placed perches and feeding and watering points to prevent that plumage being fouled or otherwise damaged.
2. For perching birds, a sufficient number of perches must be provided at such a height that the bird can rest its head without its head touching the top and its tail the bottom of the cage.
3. A quality padded net should be used when catching birds in an aviary.
4. The table details cage sizes for the commonly stocked species. Advice should be sought for other species.

TABLE 2 – STOCKING DENSITIES – JUVENILE SMALL MAMMALS

	No of Animals	1-4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Min Cage Height cm	Min Cage Depth cm
Mice, Hamsters, Gerbils	sq.cm	450	525	600	675	750	825	900	25	25
Rats	sq.cm	675	785	900	1010	1125	1235	1350	30	30
Guinea Pigs	sq.cm	1350	1570	1800	2020	2250	2470	2700	30	30
Rabbits up to 2kg, kittens, ferrets, chinchillas, chipmunks	sq.cm	2250	2625	3000	3375	3750	4125	4500	40	30
Puppies up to age of 12 weeks maximum	sq.cm	10,000	12,500	15,000	17,500	20,000	22,500	25,000	Double height at shoulder minimum 50	0-9m

The range of behavioural opportunities for many of the animals listed in the above table will be increased by enriching the environment with accessories. Raised shelving should be taken into consideration when assessing the total floor area. The above recommended stocking densities are insufficient for the housing of marmosets. Marmosets must be housed in cages sufficiently large enough to allow for natural movement, such as climbing and swinging.

TABLE 3 – STOCKING DENSITIES – ORNAMENTAL FISH

It is virtually impossible to determine the quantity of fish to be kept in a tank purely on weight/volume or numbers of fish/volume ratio. The variation in system design, husbandry techniques and types of fish involved make these calculations impractical. The maintenance of water quality standards is essential and is a simple but effective way to determine stocking densities. Water quality testing should be carried out at least once a week in centralised systems and 10% of individual tanks should likewise be tested. Unsatisfactory test results must be recorded in a register together with the corrective action taken. Further tests must be carried out when visual inspection of the tanks indicates the need.

WATER QUALITY CRITERIA (1mg/litre – 1ppm)

Cold Water

*Dissolved Oxygen	-min	6mg/litre	Nitrite	-max	0.2mg/litre
*Free Ammonia	-max	0.02mg/litre	Nitrate	-max	50mg/litre above ambient tap water

Tropical Fish

*Dissolved Oxygen	-min	6mg/litre	Nitrite	-max	0.2mg/litre
*Free Ammonia	-max	0.02mg/litre	Nitrate	-max	50mg/litre above ambient tap water

Tropical Marine Species

*Dissolved Oxygen	-min	5.5mg/litre	Nitrite	-max	0.125mg/litre
*Free Ammonia	-max	0.01mg/litre	Nitrate	-max	40mg/litre. This is an absolute figure; it does not relate to ambient tap water
*pH (tropical marine only)	-min	8.1			

*These parameters should be checked first. Only if a problem exists with these tests is it necessary to check nitrite and nitrate levels.

TABLE 4 – STOCKING DENSITIES – OTHER SPECIES

Accommodation must be provided appropriate to size, age and type of species; and to avoid overcrowding. There should be sufficient space for free and natural movement which should not be restricted by either the size of the accommodation or the number of animals in that holding. Correct temperature for the species must be maintained. The advice and approval of the Licensing Authority should be sought wherever there is doubt about a species being sold.

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