The Animal Welfare
Science Centre

www.animalwelfare-science.net

Investigating the relationships between fear or curiosity and piling behaviour in laying hens.

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Supervisors: Prof Paul Hemsworth, Dr Peta Taylor, Prof Andrew Fisher

In collaboration with: Dr Michael Toscano, Dr Ariane Stratmann (University of Bern, Switzerland)

Smothering

Recent Australian study found that smothering accounted for 16% of mortality across 84 flocks

Consistent with UK study smothering on average accounted for 16% of total mortality by 71 weeks of age, respectively (Defra, 2015).

Previous work – Flock level

Human Test

Novel object test

What about individuals?

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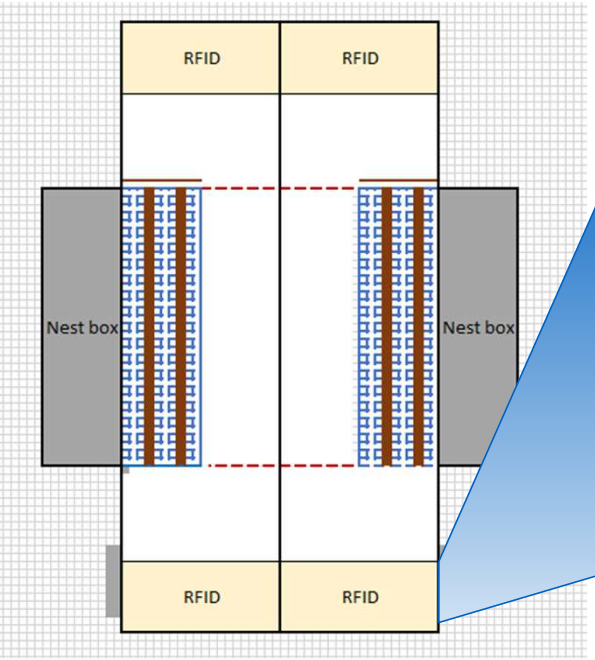
Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)



Human Test

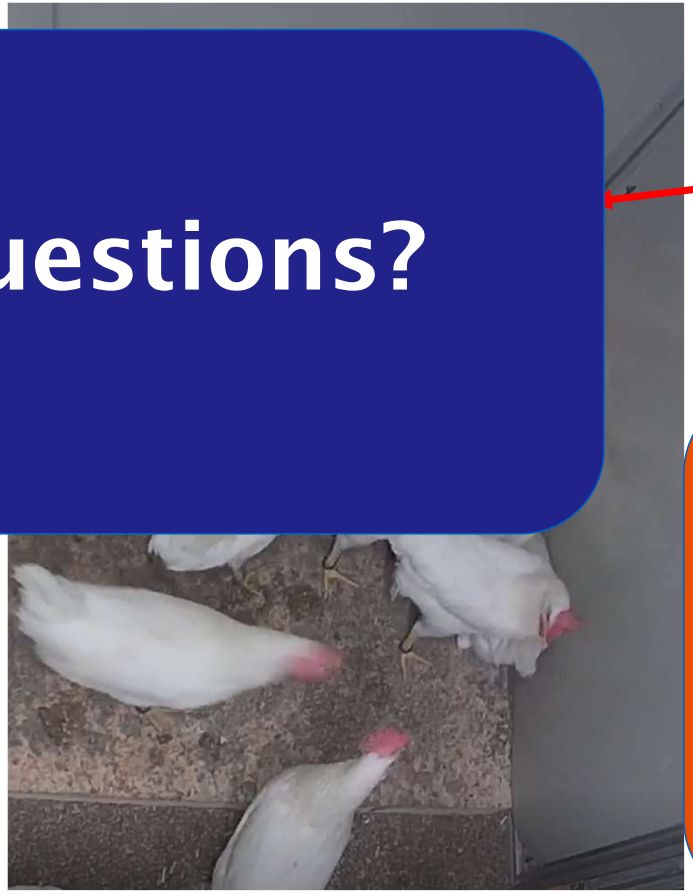
Assessing the response of the individual hens in a group to an unfamiliar human

Novel object test

Novel objects placed on RFID antenna areas, one at either end of the pen

Is the individual hen's
r ovelty associa d
w aviour in a

Questions?



Thank you:

Center for Proper Housing: Poultry and Rabbits (ZTHZ)

Australian Eggs