

Animals Kept In Greenhouses

Caring for Animals in Greenhouses

If you're keeping animals in a greenhouse, it's super important to keep an eye on the temperature. The States Veterinary Officer has shared some handy tips to help ensure your furry and feathered friends stay comfortable and healthy.

First off, it's a great idea to set up maximum and minimum thermometers close to where your animals and birds are housed. This way, you can easily monitor the temperature in their environment. When the thermometer hits 24°C or higher, you need to be cautious—animals can start experiencing heat stress. And if it climbs above 30°C, fowl are at risk too! Plus, if the greenhouse feels humid, that just makes things worse.

Make sure your greenhouse is equipped with tools to help manage the temperature. Things like lights, lime wash, and fans can really help keep the internal environment in check.

Shade is crucial for your animals, too. They should have easy access to shaded areas, and natural canopies made from plants work wonders. Fun fact: in Guernsey, fig trees were planted near pigsties just to give the pigs a cool spot to relax during the summer heat!

And let's not forget about hydration! Fresh, clean drinking water should always be available. Remember, animals need even more water when it's warm outside. If your animals are in groups, make sure there are multiple water sources available. This way, if one gets spilled or if a more dominant animal guards the water, everyone can still get a drink.

It's essential to check on your animals at least twice a day. However, during those sweltering summer months, it's wise to make an extra check during the hottest part of the day. Look out for any signs of heat stress, like panting or lethargy.

If you notice any of your animals or birds showing signs of heat stress, take action to cool down their environment immediately. And don't hesitate to call your vet if you think they need professional help. Keeping our animals safe and comfortable is always a top priority!