

## A1 – Housing effect on heat behavior

**General conditions of the housing and especially the type of flooring have a profound effect on the willingness or even ability of the animals to display their full heat behavior.**

General housing	Yes	No
Do you use housing during the whole year?		
Are your cows in a free stall set up?		
Does your building provide enough surface for the numbers of cows housed (equal number of stalls and animals)?		
Is the size of the cubicles matching the size of the cows (wall:3m x 1.25m; open:2.50m x 1.25m; neck rail length:1.20m x 1.35m)		
Is there enough walking space for cows to move freely (at least 4m behind feeding fence and drinking points and 3m between 2 rows of boxes)?		
Do you have an outdoors exercise area?		

Flooring	Yes	No
Is the floor in the walking area non-slippery even when wet?		
Do you have a manure scraper?		
Is the manure removed at least four times a day from the surface of the walking area?		
Is the outdoors exercise area equipped with soft flooring?		

If you have answered the majority of questions with 'no' then the housing conditions may be interfering with the detectability of heat signs in your animals resulting in decreased heat detection efficacy.