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HEALTH FATTENING BULLS CONCRETE AND RUBBER FLOORS IN COMPARISON

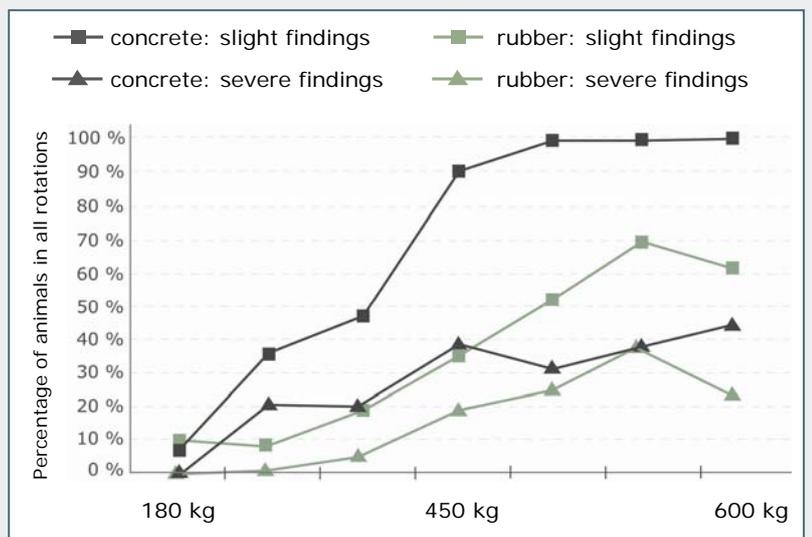
Study of 40 fattening groups with 7 bulls each (= 280 bulls) in the cubicle house of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (Federal Research Institute for Animal Health) in Celle

Findings at the carpal joints

Standing up and laying down with heavy loads (**knee drop test!**) provokes swelling, or "capped knee"

- all in all less frequent with animals kept on rubber
- less severe on rubber

Percentage and severity of findings at the carpal joints:



Tail tip necroses

Crushing injuries from stepping on the tail tip on hard floors often seriously damages health:

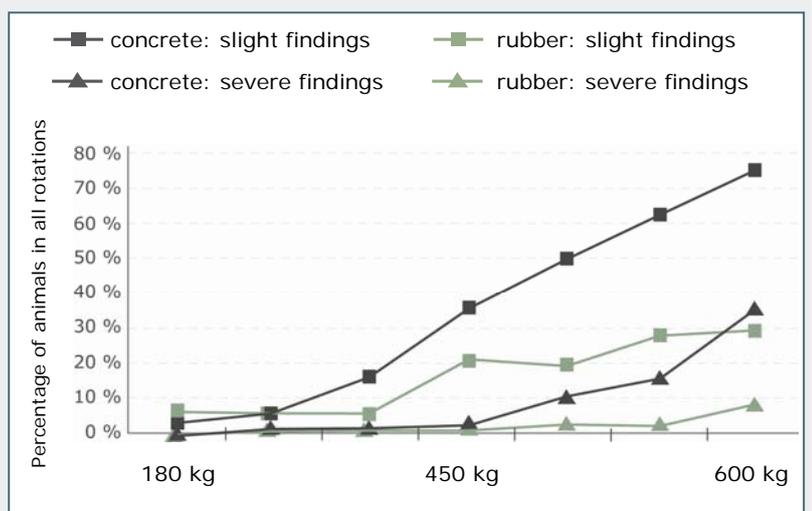
- ascending infections and necroses
- tail tip amputation by a vet

A soft floor reduces the severity of crushing through its elasticity:

- significantly less severe injuries
- fewer tail tip amputations

This is very advantageous to **animal welfare**, as well as for **economic efficiency!**

Percentage and severity of tail tip injuries:



Source: Zerbe F., Mayer C., Kjaer J.: Einfluss von Spaltenbodenqualität und Flächenangebot auf das Vorkommen von Verletzungen der Schwanzspitze und am Integument bei Mastbullen [Effect of slatted floor quality and area offers on the occurrence of tail tip injuries and of the integument of fattening bulls]. KTBL-publication 471, p. 47ff., 2008