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**The influence of automatic weighing scales and their modifications on the broiler chicken’s activity and limb condition**

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**Background/Objective:**

The intensification of animal production leads to constant herd monitoring automatization. One of the most frequently used tools are automatic scales. Due to the rapid increase in body weight, the activity of birds, especially in the final stage of production, is compromised due to the slower growth of bone tissue. The aim of the study was to check the impact of scales and its modification on the bird’s activity and condition of the leg muscles and bones.

**Methods:**

During the experiment, 156 broiler chickens were divided into 3 groups: K - control, W - with access to a scale and LW - with access to a scale with a laser pointer. Video recordings were subjected to bird’s behavioral analyses. Further, at the end of the production cycle, texture analyses of the thigh muscles and bone strength (femur/tibia) were performed.

**Results:**

Analyses of the results from the still ongoing experiment have not shown significant differences in muscle texture and bone strength. One desired result from behavioral analyses is an increase in bird activity without negative effects on the above-mentioned parameters.

**Conclusion:**

The introduction of scales and a laser pointer did not negatively affect the condition of the limbs. Increasing the frequency or duration of bird exposure to the laser in the next repetition of the experiment could potentially improve chicken welfare through physical activity. This study was conducted by the Animal Science for Future (ASc4Future) research group, supported by the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences (Poland) as part of the research project no N070/0007/23.

**Keywords:** ICT, poultry welfare, environmental enrichment