Sept. 27, 1932. A. D. STONER 1,879,580

RABBIT HUTCH

Filed Sept. 18, 1931

Fig. 1.

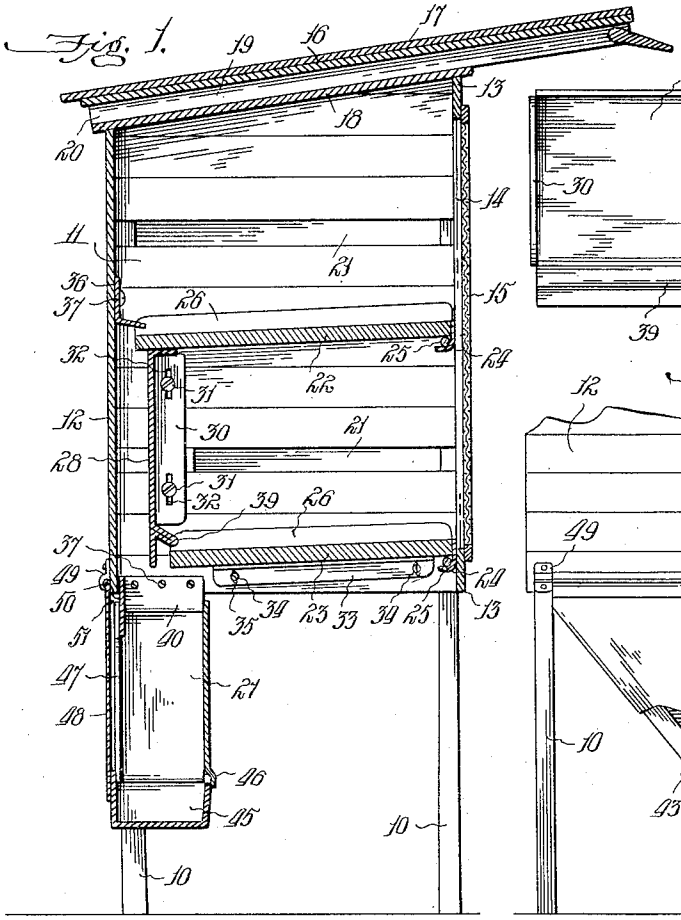


Fig. 3.

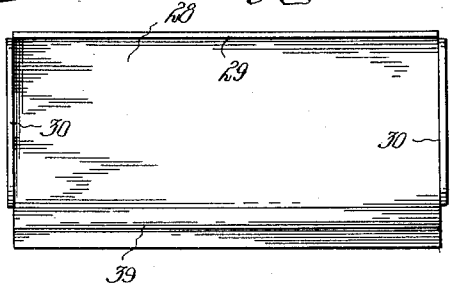


Fig. 2.

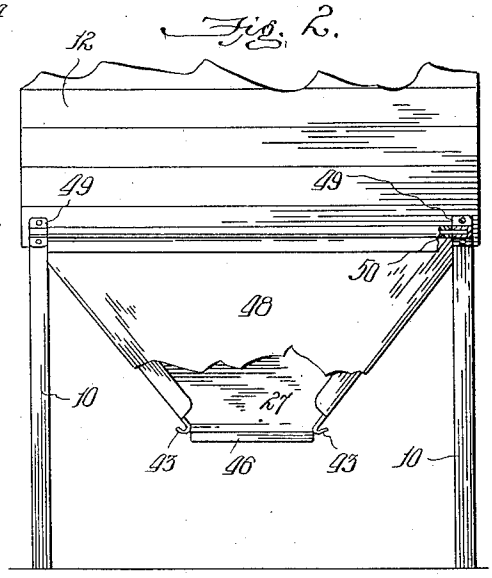


Fig. 4.

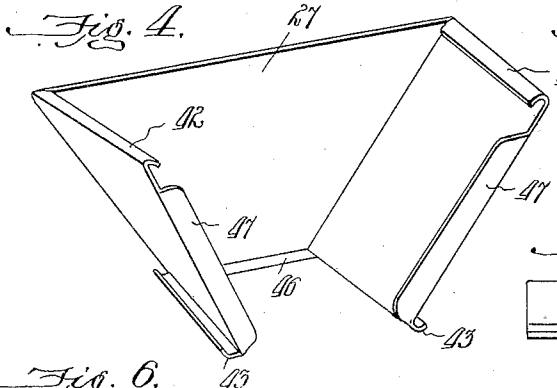


Fig. 5.

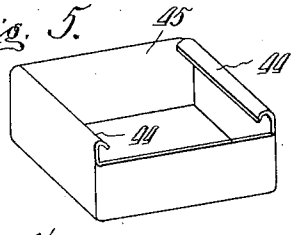


Fig. 7.

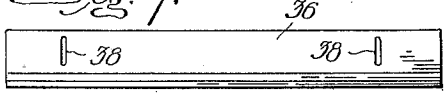
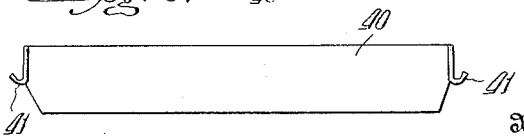


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ABRAHAM DEWEY STONER, OF NEW WINDSOR, MARYLAND

RABBIT HUTCH

Application filed September 18, 1931. Serial No. 563,604.

My invention relates to enclosures or houses adapted to confine animals for breeding purposes, and more especially to that particular type of animal house commonly known as a rabbit hutch.

The present invention is an improvement upon the structures shown and described in my prior applications, one filed August 20, 1930, Serial No. 476,637, Patent Number 1,825,557 and the other filed November 8, 1930, Serial No. 496,518, Patent Number 1,825,558.

The main object of this invention is to provide for supporting the floors within the structure so that they may be readily detached and removed for convenience in thoroughly cleaning the same, as well as provide for adjusting the inclination of said floors and guard the opening between the rear end of each floor and back wall of the compartment through which openings the sweepings are deposited into a chute leading to a receptacle for collecting the same.

A further object in the present instance is to provide an improved form of chute and associated receptacle to receive the refuse and other sweepings from the floors of the hutch.

With these principal objects in view my present invention consists in the particular construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described and specifically set forth in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view through the rabbit hutch.

Fig. 2 is a fragmental view looking at the rear end of the hutch, the receptacle at the lower end of the chute being removed.

Fig. 3 is a detail front elevation of the partition forming the rear wall of the lower compartment.

Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the removable chute.

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the receptacle supported at the lower end of the chute.

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of the plate from which the chute is suspended, and

Fig. 7 is a front elevation of the guard plate at the rear end of the upper floor.

In carrying out my invention the animal house or rabbit hutch is built of corner posts 10 to which the side walls 11, 11 and rear wall 12 are attached with crosspieces 13, 13 at the upper and lower ends of the front of the structure against which closes a door 14 having a panel 15 of screen wire for ventilation. Although any approved form of roof may be employed I prefer the construction shown in which the roof 16 having a suitable protecting cover 17 is spaced from the ceiling 18 by longitudinal strips 19 at the sides of the structure and attached to the upper ends of the corner posts to leave an air space 20 between said roof and ceiling, while the side walls are provided with openings 21, 21 leading to feed boxes such as shown and described in my aforementioned application filed August 20, 1930, Serial No. 476,637.

The corner posts are of such length as to support the body of the house or hutch a distance above the ground whereby the depending chute, hereinafter described, may be of the required length and the lower end thereof a suitable distance above the ground to receive a bucket or receptacle in which the refuse and sweepings from the chute are deposited.

The body of the hutch is of such height as to provide two compartments with the floor 22 of the upper compartment interposed between the feed openings 21, 21 and the floor 23 of the lower compartment a slight distance above the lower ends of the side walls of the housing, said floors each being supported at its forward end by a hook 24 engaging a crossbar 25 extending between the side walls, it being noted that the ends of the hooks extend rearwardly under the crossbars and that when the door 14 is closed it will prevent disengagement of the hooks. The floors are preferably solid and are each provided with side flashings 26 to retain refuse and other material on the floors and prevent particles thereof from falling between the edges of the floor and side walls. The upper floor 22 terminates a slight distance from the rear wall 12 to leave a space through which refuse and other sweepings from this floor may pass to the chute 27 sus-

pended from the bottom of the housing, and in order to protect the lower compartment from these sweepings, as well as support the rear end of said floor, I provide a vertical partition 28 in the form of a plate having its upper end 29 bent forwardly to support the floor and its sides extended forwardly to provide attaching flanges 30, 30 through which the attaching means, as screws 31, pass into the sides of the housing, and in order that the partition may be adjusted vertically to vary the inclination of the floor 22 the screws pass through slots 32 in the side flanges of said partition. The lower floor 23 is supported on angle plates 33 attached to the sides of the housing by screws 34 passing through slots 35 permitting adjustment of the inclination of this floor, and the rear end of the latter terminates a slight distance from the lower end of the partition 28 to leave an opening through which the sweepings may pass into the chute 27 below the rear end of said floor. The discharge opening at the rear end of the upper floor is protected, so that the rabbit will not catch his feet into the same, by means of the forwardly projecting portion of a bent plate 36 secured to the rear wall of the housing by screws 37 passing through slots 38 (Fig. 7) so that said plate may be adjusted to accommodate any adjustment of the floor, and likewise the discharge opening at the rear end of the lower floor 23 is protected by a forwardly projecting guard strip 39 extending from the partition 28 near the lower end thereof, said strip being struck from the partition plate as indicated in the drawing.

For suspending the chute 27 below the discharge openings at the rear ends of the upper and lower floors of the housing I provide a hanger in the form of a U-shaped plate 40 the longer portion of which depends from the inner side of the rear wall 12 and the end members attached to the side walls 11. 11 to extend below the lower edges thereof with the lower ends of said end members turned outwardly and upwardly to form rails 41 for slidable engagement therewith of the upper inwardly turned portions 42 of the side walls of the chute, the lower ends of said side walls being turned outwardly to form rails 43 on which slide the inwardly turned portions 44 at the upper ends of the side walls of a receptacle 45 suspended from the lower end of the chute. As will be noted by reference to Fig. 1 the forward end of the receptacle is shallow so as to permit said receptacle to be slid on to the lower end of the chute from the rear thereof, and that the front wall of the chute is offset, at 46, to overlap the upper edge of said shallow front wall of the receptacle while the rear wall of the latter bears against the chute at the rear end thereof. The rear end of the chute is left open between the inwardly projecting flanges 47, 47 and this opening is covered by means of a plate 48 suitably hinged to the rear wall of the housing preferably by means of pintle-ears 49, 49 into which project the ends of a rod 50 secured to the upper end of the cover plate by turning the metal over the same, as shown in Fig. 2. This cover plate is provided at its side edges with inwardly projecting flanges 51 overlapping the sides of the chute. By this arrangement the chute is removably attached to the supporting plate 40, being slid into engagement with the rails 41 from the forward end of said supporing plate, for which purpose the upper ends of the side flanges 47 are cut away, and of course the chute may be reversed by sliding it into engagement with the supporting plate or hanger from the rear end of the latter, and in either arrangement thereof the receptacle 45 can be slid into position by sliding the inwardly curved upper ends of the side walls of said receptacle on the outwardly turned lower ends of the side walls of the chute.

By the construction shown in the accompanying drawing and hereinbefore described I provide for varying the inclination of the floors of the compartments and leave a space or opening at the end of each floor so that it will drain to the chute and receptacle or catch basin at the lower end of the chute, the partition forming the rear wall of the lower compartment cooperating with the rear wall of the housing to form an auxiliary chute for the refuse discharged from the upper floor so that this refuse cannot enter the lower compartment, and although I prefer to use a removable catch basin or receptacle at the lower end of the chute this may be dispensed with by placing a bucket below the discharge end of the chute. When the chute 27 is arranged as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing the receptacle 45 is removed by sliding the same rearwardly, and of course this is the arrangement when the rabbit hutch is located for access to said receptacle from the rear, but in such cases where the hutch is located with the back against a wall the chute will be reversed so that the receptacle can be removed by sliding it forwardly instead of backwardly, and in this instance the plate 48 covering the open side of said chute can be swung from fixtures attached to the lower ends of the side walls of the housing.

It will be apparent that the particular construction of the rabbit hutch not only insures the comfort of the animals but facilitates the operation of keeping the hutch in a sanitary condition, and of course the hutch can be built to provide more than two compartments one above another, the same arrangement as to partitions being carried out with respect to those compartments located below the one above for the protection of the animals from the refuse discharged from the floors into the chute and receptacle for collecting the refuse.

I claim:—

1. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having a door at the front end thereof, a floor for the enclosure, and means for supporting the floor consisting of a hook extending rearwardly from the under side of the forward end thereof, a crossbar with which the hook engages located adjacent the front edges of the side walls of the enclosure against which the door closes, and adjustable means for supporting the rear end of the floor to vary the inclination thereof.

2. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having a floor with its rear end spaced from the rear wall of the compartment in which the animals are housed to provide a discharge opening from the floor, a guard strip extending over said opening to cover the same, and a receptacle below the opening to receive the refuse from the floor.

3. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having upper and lower floors dividing the enclosure into compartments for the animals, said floors being spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure to provide discharge openings from the floors at the rear ends thereof, means for hingedly supporting the forward end of the upper floor, and a vertically adjustable partition forming the rear wall of the lower compartment and on which the rear end of said upper floor rests for varying the inclination of said floor and for protecting the lower compartment from the refuse discharged from the upper floor.

4. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having upper and lower floors dividing the enclosure into compartments for the animals, said floors being spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure to provide discharge openings from the floors at the rear ends thereof, means for hingedly supporting the forward end of the upper floor, and a vertically adjustable partition forming the rear wall of the lower compartment and on which the rear end of said upper floor rests for varying the inclination of said floor and for protecting the lower compartment from the refuse discharged from the upper floor; together with a vertically adjustable guard strip attached to the enclosure to cover the opening at the rear end of the upper floor, and a guard strip carried by the partition to cover the opening at the rear end of the lower floor.

5. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having upper and lower floors dividing the enclosure into compartments for the animals, said floors being spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure to provide discharge openings from the floors at the rear ends thereof, means for hingedly supporting the forward end of the upper floor, a vertically adjustable partition forming the rear wall of the lower compartment and on which the rear end of said upper floor rests for varying the inclination of said floor and for protecting the lower compartment from the refuse discharged from the upper floor, and a receptacle for the refuse from the floors suspended from the lower end of the enclosure on a line with the aforesaid openings at the rear ends of the floors; together with a vertically adjustable guard strip attached to the enclosure to cover the opening at the rear end of the upper floor, and a guard strip carried by the partition to cover the opening at the rear end of the lower floor.

6. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having upper and lower floors spaced from the rear wall thereof to provide discharge openings from the floors with a partition below the rear end of the upper floor to form the rear wall of the lower compartment spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure, a hanger secured to the lower end of the enclosure on a vertical line with the aforesaid openings, a chute suspended from said hanger, and a receptacle detachably connected to the lower end of the chute.

7. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having upper and lower floors spaced from the rear wall thereof to provide discharge openings from the floors with a partition below the rear end of the upper floor to form the rear wall of the lower compartment spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure, a hanger in the form of a U-shape plate with outwardly bent portions forming rails at the sides thereof, said hanger being secured to the lower end of the enclosure on a vertical line with the aforesaid openings at the rear ends of the floors, a chute having inwardly turned portions at its upper end slidable on the rails of the hanger and outwardly turned lower ends forming supporting rails, and a receptacle detachably connected to the lower end of the chute and having inturned upper ends slidable on the rails at the lower end of said chute.

8. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having upper and lower floors spaced from the rear wall thereof to provide discharge openings from the floors with a partition below the rear end of the upper floor to form the rear wall of the lower compartment spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure, a hanger in the form of a U-shape plate with outwardly bent portions forming rails at the sides thereof, said hanger being secured to the lower end of the enclosure on a vertical line with the aforesaid openings at the rear ends of the floors, a chute suspended from the rails at the sides of the hanger and having the lower ends thereof bent outwardly to form supporting rails, said chute being open at one side, a re-

ceptacle having inturned upper ends slidable on the rails at the lower end of the chute, and a plate hinged to the enclosure to cover the open side of said chute.

9. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having floors forming upper and lower compartments, said floors being spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure to provide discharge openings through which refuse is discharged from the floors, means for supporting the lower floor for varying the inclination thereof, and a vertical partition below the rear end of the upper floor formed of a plate having side flanges projecting at right angles thereto with vertical slots through which screws pass for adjustably securing said partition to the sides of the enclosure.

10. An animal house or rabbit hutch comprising an enclosure having floors forming upper and lower compartments, said floors being spaced from the rear wall of the enclosure to provide discharge openings through which refuse is discharged from the floors, means for supporting the lower floor for varying the inclination thereof, a vertical partition below the rear end of the upper floor formed of a plate having side flanges projecting at right angles thereto with vertical slots through which screws pass for adjustably securing said partition to the sides of the enclosure, said partition having a guard strip extending outwardly from near the lower end thereof over the opening at the rear end of the lower floor, and a guard strip secured to the enclosure to extend over the opening at the rear end of the upper floor.

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