

# 'EURCAW-Pigs' – Progress Report



Hans Spoolder  
EU Platform on Animal Welfare



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



European Commission

# [www.eurcaw-pigs.eu](http://www.eurcaw-pigs.eu)





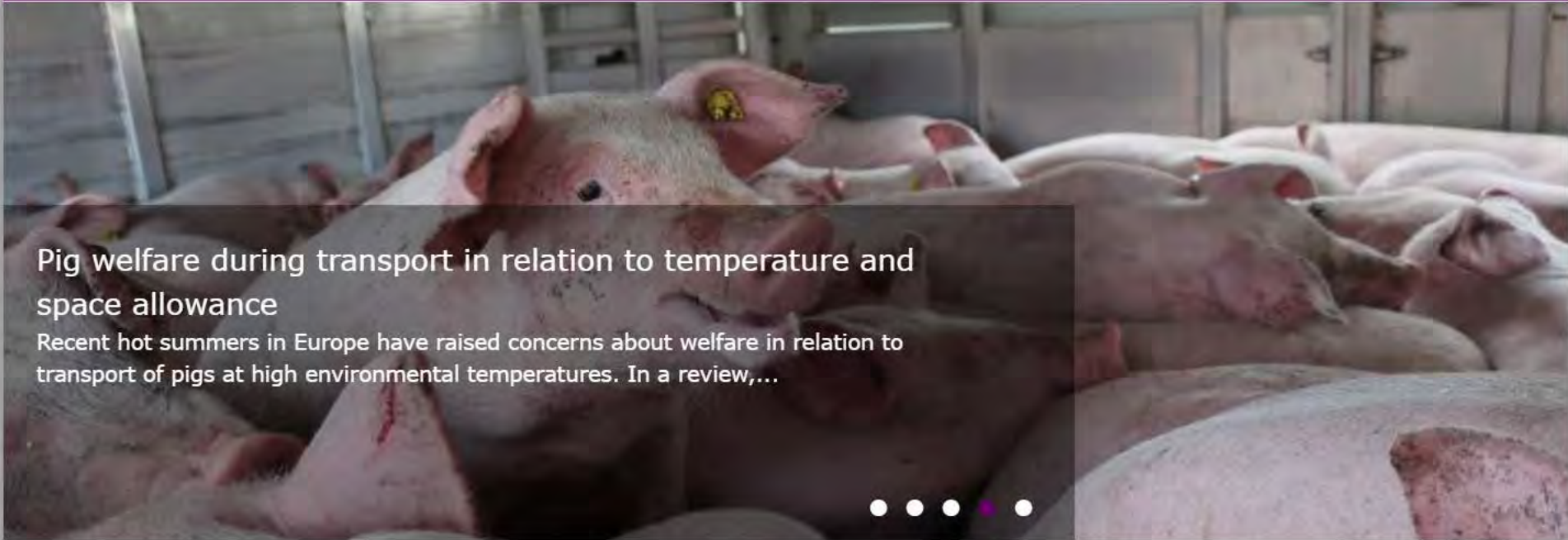
# European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare *Pigs*

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## Pig welfare during transport in relation to temperature and space allowance

Recent hot summers in Europe have raised concerns about welfare in relation to transport of pigs at high environmental temperatures. In a review,...

*EURCAW-Pigs' website offers relevant and actual information to support enforcement of pig welfare legislation in EU Member States*

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### Knowledge base

Are you looking for specific documents on pig welfare and enforcement? Search the EURCAW-Pigs Knowledge base.



Search the Knowledge base

### EURCAW-Pigs on Twitter

May 18, 2020

**EURCAW-Pigs**  
@eurcaw

Thematic factsheets of the Centre give a quick and easy overview of prioritized welfare areas. Thematic factsheets are now available for 'Tail biting and tail docking' and 'Farrowing housing and management', and can be found on the 'Scientific output' page [eurcaw.eu/en/EURCAW-Pigs...](http://eurcaw.eu/en/EURCAW-Pigs...)

**Scientific output**  
eurcaw.eu

To EURCAW-Pigs on Twitter

### Questions to EURCAW

For technical and scientific advice on pig welfare, please send us an email with your question.



### Recent Q2E inquiries

- [Effects of nose rings on welfare of pigs on-farm and during transport](#)
- [To what extent can jute sacks as enrichment for pigs be scored as 'edible'?](#)



Provision of knowledge

**Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)** <

## Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)

For technical and scientific advice on pig welfare, please send us an email with your question. It is also possible to comment on an answer we provided, so we can improve it further. This Q2E service is open to Competent Authorities and government policy workers of EU Member States.

### Contact EURCAW-Pigs



Mail: [info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto:info.pigs@eurcaw.eu)





### Husbandry

- > [190509-01 How many hospital pens should a pig farm have?](#)
- > [190509-02 What sort of enrichment should be offered to individually housed pigs?](#)
- > [190509-03 Does ASF spread through enrichment materials?](#)
- > [190509-04 How do you assess if the climate in the pig barn is 'adequate'?](#)
- > [200122-01 To what extent can jute sacks as enrichment for pigs be scored as 'edible'?](#)
- > [200218-01 Effects of nose rings on welfare of pigs on-farm and during transport](#)



### Slaughter and killing

- > [190527-01 Does the size of a pig affect the quality of a CO2 stun?](#)
- > [Q2E - 200324-01 - Are there alternatives to CO2 stunning of slaughter pigs which are more welfare friendly?](#)



### Transport

- > [200218-01 Effects of nose rings on welfare of pigs on-farm and during transport](#)



## Questions to EURCAW

191209-01

12 May 2020

### Question to EURCAW-Pigs: Verification of weaning age

12 May 2020

#### Question

Received: 19 December 2019

When visiting a farm it is not always clear if the piglets are not weaned too early. Can EURCAW-Pigs provide a method to verify the average weaning age of piglets, based on information available to the inspector? The answer should take into account the different nurse sow systems.

#### Answer

Several EURCAW experts contributed to the response below. The EURCAW secretariat did the final editing, and may be contacted for queries: [info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto:info.pigs@eurcaw.eu).

In short, the answers are:

- On a smooth running multiplier farm that keep sows on the unit during pregnancy, there should be maximally 6.9 times as many sows nursing compared to sows not nursing for an average weaning age of 21 days. This figure is maximally 6 for an average weaning age of 24.5 days.
- On farms where sow reproductive performance cannot be determined, is not reliable or of low

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Scientific output

Indicator factsheets

**Knowledge base** <

## Knowledge base

The EURCAW-Pigs Knowledge base contains relevant scientific, legal and technical documents on the relevant pig welfare issues. The number of available items will increase over time, parallel with the release of dossiers.

*You can search the knowledge base with keywords or search terms.*

farrowing



## Knowledge Base EURCAW-Pigs

The knowledge base contains relevant scientific, legal and technical documents on the relevant pig welfare issues.

You can search the knowledge base with keywords or search terms. You can make use of the filters at the left to refine your search results. E.g. use filter "dossier" and select "tail biting pigs" to refine your results on tail biting. When you subsequently want to find videos on tail biting, use filter 'file format' and select 'video'.

Current refinements can always be reversed.

### dossier

Farrowing housing and management (28)

Tail biting pigs (17)

Group housing and mixing sows (7)

On-farm killing (6)

Fitness during transport (4)

Climate control and space allowance (3)

Handling in lairage (3)

Pig stunning (3)

### file format

PDF (29)

Webpage (10)

Video (9)

farrowing

Search



e.g. economic\* AND Smith, apple\* OR pear\*, "wind energy", cow\* NOT sheep

Records 1 - 10 / 40

marked list help

Check title to add to marked list

Sort by Date (New -...)

**Underconditioned sows: indicator of a large litter size, indicator factsheet** [PDF]

Patt, A. \ Ruis, M.A.W. \ Schubbert, A. \ Pedersen, L.J. \ 2020

Broncollectie: Artik+ \ Bron: EURCAW-Pigs \ Bron: EURCAW-Pigs factsheets: Farrowing housing and management

more...



**Facial and carpal joint lesions: indicators of lack of space and large litter sizes in pigs, indicator factsheet** [PDF]

Patt, A. \ Ruis, M.A.W. \ Schubbert, A. \ Pedersen, L.J. \ 2020

more...



## Agenda



[To full agenda overview](#)

## Dossiers on welfare topics



Welfare of pigs during husbandry  
Directives 98/58/EC and 2008/120/EC



Welfare of pigs during transport  
Regulation (EC) No 1/2005



Welfare of pigs at slaughter and killing  
Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009

## Newsletter

Do you want to stay up-to-date on pig welfare and enforcement matters? Subscribe to the EURCAW-Pigs newsletter.

[Subscribe](#)

**For welfare science related to heat stress and overcrowding during transport, go to EURCAW-Pigs' review**


**Dossier**

- Welfare of pigs during husbandry
- Welfare of pigs during transport
- Welfare of pigs at slaughter and killing

Dossier

# Climate control and space allowance during transport

**This dossier aims to help Competent Authorities and other stakeholders with issues related to climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs.**



Climate control and space allowance during transport is important, e.g. for the homeostatic control of body temperature of the animals. Thermoregulation is necessary for pig welfare (as it affects thermal comfort, heat stress, cold stress and survival). The pig's ability to thermoregulate depends on maintaining a balance between heat production and heat loss. It is affected by environmental



Search the Knowledge base

Go to the EURCAW-Pigs Knowledge base

**Important publications**

- Review of climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs, EURCAW-Pigs, 2020
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals

### Legislation



The legal requirements related to climate control and space allowance during transport can be found in Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005.

### Welfare indicators



Indicators to monitor pig welfare related to climate control and space allowance during transport.

### Knowledge



Background information and practical knowledge on the need for climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs. How these affect pig welfare, and how welfare problems can be limited in practice.

### Good practices



### Training courses





**European Reference Centre  
for Animal Welfare *Pigs***

**Indicator factsheet – Risks for tail biting**

**Enrichment**

**Suitability of materials**



### When is enrichment material suitable?

- Providing a sufficient quantity of suitable materials is necessary to enable pigs to fulfill their innate need for

“(...) pigs must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities, (...), which does not compromise the health of the animals.” {Annex I, Chapter I, point 4}

*Note: Listed requirements are not comprehensive.*

**Assess all pigs on individual level. Make all pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why a pig should not be made to rise). Gait scoring should be performed on non-slippery floor.**

**Lameness score at farm level; percentage of pigs scored as 1**

**Score 0: No or slight lameness**

**Normal gait (fluid motion, same stride length, full weight bearing on all four legs)**

*Or*

**Slight lameness (stiff gait, shortened stride, increased spinal segment movement)**



**Score 1: Severe lameness**

**Minimum weight bearing on the affected limb, quick alternation between weight bearing and no weight bearing of affected limb ("tipping")**



**Example videos of lame and not lame pigs.**

**Source scoring method and QR code**



## Scientific output

**Review documents** and **thematic factsheets** summarize the latest scientific and practical knowledge for eight prioritized welfare areas.

Each review first provides background information describing the biological relevance of the topic. It is then structured along the most important risk areas identified for that welfare area, describes why welfare issues occur and mentions the indicators that can help official inspectors to identify these welfare issues.

To allow official inspectors to link these welfare areas with verification of compliance, the review then states relevant EU legislation. Finally, the review summarizes ways of good and better practices that can help to

For suggestions, comments or questions about the reviews and factsheets, please contact us:

Mail: [info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto:info.pigs@eurcaw.eu)



## Progress of 8 dossiers 2019-2020

By the end of this month: legal info, scientific background, indicator factsheets

- Tail biting and tail docking
- Temperature & Space during transport
- Farrowing housing and management

Later this year:

- Handling in lairage (July 2020)
- Pig stunning (August 2020)
- Group housing and mixing (August 2020)
- Fitness for transport (Oct 2020)
- On-farm killing (Dec 2020)

# Developing the Work Programme 2021-2022

## Advisory Board meeting 3 July 2020

- Copa
- Cogeca
- UECEBV
- FESASS
- EFFAB
- Eurogroup for animals
- 4 Pforten
- FVE
- FEFAC
- EURCAW-  
Small animals

## PAFF meeting 18 June 2020

**+ your feedback via e-mail !**

# Developing the Work Programme 2021-2022

## Possible ideas for the coming programme:

### ■ Technical topics (dossiers):

- **Transport of sows** and boars
- **Rearing entire boars**
- Design & management of **Control Posts**
- Measuring **farm welfare at abattoir?**

### ■ Skills:

- **Communication**  
(farmer/driver – inspector dialogue)

### ■ Tools:

- Inspector stories / blogs
- Webinars

- **Translations** in your language
- Link with other **National Reference Centre**



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## Contact us



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@eurcaw



[info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto:info.pigs@eurcaw.eu)