

# Pigs communicate emotions

Pigs can pass on emotions to each other. Behavioural biologist Inonge Reimert of Wageningen University & Research discovered this by giving a pig from a group a nice experience (a chocolate raisin hunt) or an unpleasant one (isolation or a shock). When they returned to the group, both the happy pig and its companions became more active, playful and sociable. The mistreated animal, on the other hand, became more inactive, which infected the group too. The effect was still visible two weeks later. Reimert is the first person to have demonstrated this effect in pigs. The research can have implications for the wellbeing of pigs in a shed. Medical treatment currently takes place in the shed; the findings suggest it might be better to do it in a separate space, suggests Reimert.

Info: [inonge.reimert@wur.nl](mailto:inonge.reimert@wur.nl)