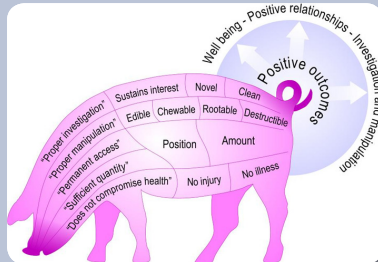


Enrichment for Finishing Pigs

Why do pigs need an enriched environment?

Naturally, pigs are curious animals. They are strongly motivated to root, explore, sniff, chew and play and spend more than 75 % of the day exploring their environment. Therefore, an enriched environment is the basis for the pigs' welfare.



Furthermore, the EU directive 2008/120/EC states in Annex 1, para 4 “...pigs must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities, such as straw, hay, wood, sawdust, mushroom compost, peat or a mixture of such, which does not compromise the health of the animals.” In order to stay compliant to existing law, suitable enrichment material must be provided.

Provision of enrichment on our farm

Number of finisher pigs (total) _____
 Number of pens _____
 Enrichment provided _____

Tails are docked: Yes/No

Adequate hospital pen available: Yes/No



Exploratory behaviour

- 1 = Step in front of pen, 2 minutes “adaption time”
- 2 = Observe active pigs (standing/sitting but do not include drinking or feeding)
- 3 = Count the number of pigs which are doing A)
- 4 = Count the number of pigs doing B)

A) Investigating a manipulable material or object

Include if the snout/mouth is manipulating straw, hay, wood (chip), sawdust, mushroom compost, peat, roughage (if not part of ration) or other material that enables proper investigation and manipulation OR in contact with an object („toy“) such as hanging object or ball.



B) Manipulating other pig and pen fittings

Include if snout/mouth is in contact with any part of another pig, with muck or the floor, fixtures or fittings of the pen. Empty chewing, tongue rolling etc. is included here. Pay attention at feeders or drinker to discriminate between manipulation of fittings and eating/drinking.



Now score your farm!

No. of pigs doing A _____

No. of pigs doing A /
No. of pigs doing A + B

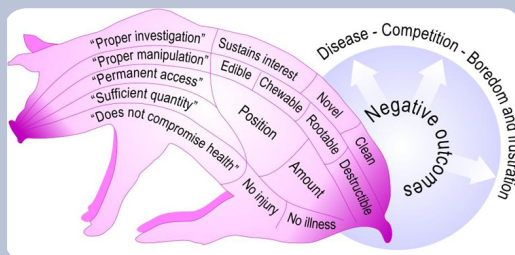
No. of pigs doing B _____ / _____ = _____

multiply by 100 for result in %

Maximal exploratory behaviour				Minimal exploratory behaviour
100 – 86,4%	86,3 – 68,8 %	68,7 – 44,5 %	44,4 – 18,1 %	18,0 - 0,0 %

Data prov. by Welfare Quality® and AssureWel

Scoring tail-lesions - How many pigs are tail-bitten?



Score 1 _____
Number of pigs with
score 1 /
total number of pigs

...../.....=.....
multiply by 100 for
result in %



Score 1
Superficial lesion
(red areas but no
indication of inflam-
mation/swelling, no
part of tail bitten off)

Top 20 % of farms				Bottom 20 % of farms
0,0 – 0,0 %	0,0 – 0,7 %	0,8 – 3,3 %	3,4 – 5,8 %	5,9 – 23,2 %

Data prov. by Welfare Quality® and AssureWel

Score 2 _____
Number of pigs with
score 2 /
total number of pigs

...../.....=.....



Score 2
Deep lesion with
broken skin visible,
inflammation/swel-
ling visible. Part of
tail missing (bitten
off)

Any pig with Score 2 needs treatment and hospitalisation!

Tail- bitten pigs are suffering from severe pain and their welfare is highly compromised.

Another consequence can be reduced weight gain as well as carcass condemnations due to systemic infections originating from the bitten tail - in other words, a financial loss!

Managing healthy animals is more satisfying than treating sick animals.



How to prevent tail-biting?

According to EU directive 2008/120/EC in Annex 1, para 8 “Neither tail-docking (...) must be carried out routinely (...). Before carrying out these procedures, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities. For this reason inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed.”

Individual risk factors for tail biting in docked pigs (EFSA, 2007a)

- ▼ Fully-slatted floors
- ▼ Genetic selection for low fatness
- ▼ High stocking density
- ▼ Castration in males
- ▼ Poor herd health
- ▼ Competition at feeding
- ▼ Presence of tail-biting animals
- ▼ Presence of tail-bitten animals
- ▼ Absence of bedding, having previously had access
- ▼ Mixing of animals (not including at weaning)
- ▼ Abrupt changes of feed composition
- ▼ Delay of feed supply
- ▼ Heat stress
- ▼ Absence of natural light
- ▼ Presence of clinical disease in tail-bitten pigs
- ▼ Being in a group with growth-retarded pigs
- ▼ Large herd size
- ▼ Draught
- ▼ Poor air quality (low ventilation)
- ▼ Cold stress

A barren environment ▼

▼ A lack of long straw



Lower risk					Higher risk
EFSA SCORE	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5

What to do in case of tail-biting?

Step 1: Assess and record tail-lesions

Step 2: Identify risk factors

Step 3: Make appropriate management changes

Step 4: Stop tail-docking

































ONLY after having made appropriate management changes short-term tail-docking is allowed if tail biting still continues. But tail-docking must not be undertaken routinely - therefore the efforts to

stop routine tail-docking have to be kept up.























Properties of different enrichment materials

- An overview

Materials offered as enrichment: substrate or roughage		Properties that promote proper manipulation behaviour			
	Straw	Edible 	Chewable 	Roadable 	Destructible 
	Hay	Edible 	Chewable 	Roadable 	Destructible 
	Sludge	Edible 	Chewable 	Roadable 	Destructible 
	Soil	Edible  Soil may contain edible components such as plant roots	Chewable 	Roadable 	Destructible 
	Wood shavings / sawdust	Edible 	Chewable 	Roadable 	Destructible 
	Rack feed with, for example, straw, hay or sludge	Edible 	Chewable 	Roadable 	Destructible 

Further information can be found at

<https://www.euwelnetpigtraining.org/>

Materials offered as enrichment: objects or toys		Properties that promote proper manipulation behaviour			
	Chain	 Edible	 Chewable	 Rollable	 Destructible
	Plastic/ rubber	 Edible	 Chewable	 Rollable	 Destructible
		The harder the plastic/rubber is, the more chewable it is.			
	Wooden block	 Edible	 Chewable	 Rollable	 Destructible
		Hard wood, can be too hard for the pig to chew.			
	Cardboard	 Edible	 Chewable	 Rollable	 Destructible
		Some rolling possible if left at floor level			
	Ball	 Edible	 Chewable	 Rollable	 Destructible
	Cloth, Hessian sack and rope	 Edible	 Chewable	 Rollable	 Destructible
		Some rolling possible if sack/ ball at floor level			
	Sawdust	 Edible	 Chewable	 Rollable	 Destructible