

Training guide EURCAW-Pigs: suggestions for national training in EU Member States

EURCAW-Pigs provides a training course example as a sort of standard for each of the eight welfare focus topics in our Work Programme 2019-20. The diversity of the different MS on how training is organized in general has to be taken into account: Hence, 'standards' for training will not fit all national needs, but need to be adjusted to the different contexts in the EU member states (MS).

Subject: Handling in lairage

Learning goals:

After the course, the participants will have gained:

- Roles and responsibilities of food business operators, welfare officers, vet inspectors, and other relevant persons.
- How pigs perceive the world and other pigs through eyesight, smell, and sound, and specific needs of different categories of pigs such as sows, slaughter pigs or weaners, and boars.
- Knowledge about welfare risks for pigs in lairage, based on EFSA opinion published in June 2020 and EURCAW review from 2020.
- Knowledge about the aspects in EU-legislation 1099/2009 on handling in lairage and related components: waiting time, space allowance, temperature, feeding and watering during lairage.
- Stress, fatigue, negative affective states and aggression, and 1) how these are affected by for example thermoregulation, resting conditions; 2) knowledge and tools on how to handle pigs in ways to avoid these states; 3) indicators for these states.
- Tools for calibration and practical training in calibration, using the EURCAW indicators.
- Knowledge about challenges in relation to communication with truck drivers and Business Owners (BO) and Animal Welfare Officers (AWO) at Slaughterhouses.

Programme and suggested training material for a training course Handling in lairage

Programme	Link to knowledge, ideas for materials you can use in the course
<p>9:00-9:30 Welcome</p> <p>Participants present themselves. Presentation of learning goals by course leader.</p> <p>9:30- 11:00 Presentations and discussions on key topics</p> <p><u>Presentation 1:</u> Knowledge on pig behaviour relevant to animal welfare inspections at slaughterhouses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Movement:</u> pigs rely heavily on scent; pig vision and optical irregularities such as shadows or rays of light; pigs’ preferences for moving in groups, walking as a sign of a relaxed animal while turning back is a sign of stress or fear; pigs’ aversion and behaviours in response to slippery or uneven surfaces; tools approved for guiding pigs during moves (flags, plastic paddles, or sorting boards); vocalizations that indicate fear or stress. • <u>Thermoregulation:</u> thermoregulatory abilities and sensitivity to high ambient temperatures among different category of pigs (slaughter pigs or weaners, sows, boars); adaptive behaviours to high and low ambient temperatures (with an emphasis on high temperatures which constitute the most common and biggest problem for pigs in slaughterhouses, especially sows); particular vulnerability of sows to heat stress. • <u>Mixing:</u> pig social behaviours and communication in groups; agonistic interactions in relation to mixing and resources with attention to how different categories of pigs (weaners or slaughter pigs, sows, and boars are differentially treated and affected by mixing). • <u>Water:</u> Key factors that impact thirst and drinking. <p><i>Questions and Discussion</i></p>	<p>EURCAW-pigs https://www.eurcaw.eu/en/eurcaw-pigs.htm</p> <p>Review on arrival and lairage management at pig slaughterhouses, EURCAW-scientific output https://edepot.wur.nl/526511</p>

<p><u>Presentation 2</u>: Key areas to focus on during welfare inspections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Arrival at the slaughterhouse</u>: required record keeping by Animal welfare officers (AWO) at slaughterhouse; realm of responsibility for transport company and slaughter facility; unloading and waiting times as risk factors; condition of pigs on arrival (indicators of fatigue, dehydration, nausea, lameness, heat or cold stress, and injury). • <u>Handling and moving pigs in lairage</u>: condition of ramps and flooring during unloading (slope, evenness, missing slats, grips, and solid gates); certification and competence of employees handling moving pigs; group size while moving; use of approved handling tools, use of electric goads in relation to design of passageways; condition of passageways and chutes that may affect pigs' willingness to move along (sharp angles, bottlenecks, moving from light to dark areas, reflections, etc.); risk factors for stress and fear related to moving from group to single file; speed of the slaughter line and risk of overloaded areas as well as risk for rough handling in this situation. • <u>Lairage and comfort around resting</u>: purpose of lairage including the inherent dilemmas (see the EURCAW-pigs review on arrival and lairage management for more information); pen size; type of floor; number of drinkers; room for exploration; temperature in lairage; space in relation to temperature; ventilation and showers; draughts; recovery in lairage as it relates to effectiveness of stunning; access to water and food; space allowance and group size; mixing and risk of aggression <p><i>Questions and discussion</i></p>	<p>Reading to be done before the course: Grandin, T., 2017. Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide: A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare. North American Meat Institute: http://www.animalhandling.org</p>
<p>11:00-11:15 Coffee break</p>	

<p>11:15-12:15 Legislation regarding handling in lairage</p> <p><u>Presentation on legislation by expert:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU legislation for lairage in slaughterhouses on the three key areas identified above: arrival at the slaughterhouse, handling and moving pigs, comfort around resting. • Relevant national legislation to the three key areas. • Background of EU legislation and how it connects to scientific-based knowledge about the biology and needs of pigs. • Legislation in relation to measuring compliance <p><i>Questions and Discussion</i></p>	<p>‘Legislation’ chapter in ‘Review on arrival and lairage management at pig slaughterhouses’, EURCAW-scientific output https://edepot.wur.nl/526511</p> <p>Legislation chapter in EURCAW dossier on Handling in lairage <i>[in prep]</i></p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing https://edepot.wur.nl/146812</p>
<p>12:15-13:15 Lunch</p>	
<p>13:15- 14:30 Presentation and discussion</p> <p>Using indicators: How do you measure welfare in relation to legislation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present EURCAW indicator factsheets (distribute as handouts). • How can you use indicators in your assessment and discussions with Business Owners (BO) and Animal Welfare Officers (AWO) at slaughterhouses? <p><i>Discussion and questions</i></p> <p>14:30-15:30 Calibration exercises in small groups</p> <p>Working in small groups, trainees are presented with photos and cases and then asked to work through how to respond while drawing on indicator factsheets and legislation. Afterward, small groups present to the larger group on their discussion.</p> <p>Possible examples/case studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Case 1</u>: Photos and a description of overcrowded lairage pens. Business operator (BO) suggests that there have been some technical difficulties, which lead to a back-up in the slaughter line. Discuss the 	<p>Indicator factsheets “Handling in lairage”, EURCAW-Pigs https://edepot.wur.nl/533109</p>

<p>case in relation to the behavioural and biological needs of the pigs in different categories (slaughter pigs or weaners, sows, and boars), indicators, and compliance with legislation. Discuss how to respond to this situation as an inspector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Case 2</u>: Photos and description of ramps and/or passageways in poor condition and with too much slope. Discuss the case in relation to the behavioural and biological needs of the pigs, indicators, and compliance with legislation. Discuss how to respond to this situation as an inspector. • <u>Case 3</u>: Photos and description of slaughterhouse workers using different tools for moving pigs. Workers are trying to move pigs quickly and are using electrical prods frequently. Discuss the case in relation to the behavioural and biological needs of the pigs, indicators, and compliance with legislation. Discuss how to respond to this situation as an inspector. <p><i>Small groups present on their discussion and responses.</i></p>	
<p>15:30-15:45 Coffee break</p>	
<p>15:45-17:00 Presentation and discussion of specific examples (calibration exercises)</p> <p><u>Presentation by expert</u>: Handling emergency situations and everyday management issues: what are the differences in terms of assessing compliance, supporting change, and how inspectors should respond?</p> <p><u>Group discussion based on specific cases</u>: Discuss who to talk to at the slaughterhouse about the matter, how to proceed with the inspection, how to bring indicators into the discussion with contacts at the slaughterhouse, and steps to mitigate the potential harm in the situation. In addition to the description provided, what are additional factors that would affect how you proceed in each situation:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Example 1</u>: an overcrowded lorry on a day with an ambient temperature of 30 °C+ when there is no space to unload at the slaughterhouse. Pigs are panting and showing other signs of heat stress. • <u>Example 2</u>: a lairage pen where sows show signs of fighting. Discuss some of the specific ways that sows are vulnerable when it comes to mixing with unfamiliar sows. • Example 3: a lairage pen with a no drinkers on a hot day. • <u>Example 4</u>: a lorry arrives with several DOA (dead on arrival) weaners. • <u>Example 5</u>: Weaners moving from lairage to stunner are backing up and getting squeezed by automatic gates. • <u>Example 6</u>: Sows are showing signs of severe lameness when walking to stunner. • Additional examples of national relevance (trainees could be asked to bring in their own photos/videos of cases that they would like to discuss or that they found difficult to assess). 	
<p>17:00-19:00 Break and evening-meal</p>	
<p>19:00-21:00 Presentation and discussion in small groups</p> <p><u>Presentation by expert</u>: Communication with Business Owners (BO) and Animal Welfare Officers (AWO) at Slaughterhouses: how to find a professional balance of a good working relationship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking open questions and avoiding “the blame game”. • How to de-escalate conflict. • Using indicators to facilitate discussion on improvement. • Organizing steps toward compliance and gaining agreement from BO and AWO on the necessary steps and improvements. • Step-wise enforcement. • Possible difficulties due to gender differences and ways to address these. 	<p>Reading to be done before the course: Farmers, inspectors and animal welfare: possibilities for change: A Review, EURCAW-Pigs https://edepot.wur.nl/514920</p> <p>Improving communication – relevant tools and resources, EURCAW-Pigs, 2020 https://edepot.wur.nl/531172</p>

- Recognizing personal issues that may affect the state of things at the slaughterhouse on the part of BO or others.
- Being personable but also raising compliance and animal welfare issues.

Small Group Discussions:

- What are some experiences and obstacles that have made it difficult to have a good working relationship with BO and AWO?
- How have you overcome communication challenges in the past? Have you found some strategies that work and some that do not? How have you adjusted to the differences between different BO and AWO?
- Have you been properly trained in communication skills or is this something that you would like more of?
- Have you found disagreement among BO and AWO concerning topics raised today (e.g. pigs' biological needs in relation to temperature)? How have you dealt with disagreement in your communication with BO and AWO?
- How have you maintained a good working relationship while doing necessary enforcement?

Evaluation of the course