

Fitness for transport



EURCAW-Pigs
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Mette S. Herskin



The next 20 minutes + discussion

- Other aspects related to transport with impact on pig welfare – mentioned by you yesterday
- What is fitness for transport?
- Non-fit pigs – what do they look like? (what does the Regulation 1/2005 say?)
- Could there be other pigs that are not fit for transport? Can we improve animal welfare?
- *You asked for training – what could be done?*



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Pig welfare during transport

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for Animal Welfare *Pigs***

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Tail biting
Farrowing housing
**Transport:
Climate & space** <
Legislation
Welfare indicators
Knowledge



Dossier: Climate control and space allowance

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 variables like ambient temperature, air speed and humidity. Space allowance during transport is furthermore important to give the animals the opportunity to change body positions, access to water on long journeys and to lie down and rest. Ideally, enough space should also be provided to move away from aggressors during fights.

This dossier is based on a EURCAW [review](#) on this subject and on guidelines produced in the [Transport Guides project](#). The dossier is updated periodically by the EURCAW-Pigs team. The text is meant to support Competent Authorities, and is not legally binding.

Important publications

- [Review of climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs](#), EURCAW-Pigs, 2020

This is a dossier on welfare of pigs during transport, regarding Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.



Search the Knowledge base

Go to the EURCAW-Pigs Knowledge base

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Pig welfare during transport

Does also tell
something about
fitness for
transport



What does dead on arrival indicate?

- Among many other reasons, death during transport has been associated with lack of space, i.e. high stocking density during transport.
- Losses can be reduced when increasing the available space per pig.
- Thermal stress (heat and cold) can ultimately also result in death.
- Space allowance and temperature are connected: high stocking density is a risk factor for overheating, i.e. especially in combination with high temperatures the risk for mortality is increased.



Requirements associated with space allowance:

- {Article 3-6}: provision of sufficient floor area and safety during transport.
- {Annex I, Chapter II, Article 1.1}: avoidance of injury and suffering
- {Annex I, Chapter II, Article 1.2}: sufficient space when in a naturally standing position without hindering natural movement.
- {Annex I, Chapter VII, D. Pigs}: all pigs must at least be able to lie down and stand up in their natural position.



Note: Listed requirements are paraphrasing the literal text of the regulation and are not comprehensive. Moreover, there might be stricter national legislation in place. For a more detailed description on the specific requirements, see

What does fitness for transport mean?

FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

1. No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.

We can explain what animal welfare is, what fear is, but we don't have an agreed definition of fitness for transport

Does that mean that fitness for transport is not important for animal welfare?

Does fitness for transport matter for animal welfare ?

Review Article **Compte rendu**

Fitness of animals for transport to slaughter

Michael S. Cockram

Abstract – Fitness for transport is an important factor affecting the potential for suffering during animal transportation. Examination of Canadian condemnation statistics, surveys of animals transported to slaughter, and legal case studies show that current guidelines and regulations do not always ensure that only fit animals are transported. Consideration of the pathophysiological implications of ill-health and injury on an animal's response to the potential physical and physiological challenges that can occur during transportation can assist in identifying the welfare implications of transporting compromised animals.

Résumé – **Aptitude des animaux au transport vers l'abattoir.** L'aptitude au transport est un facteur important affectant le potentiel de souffrances durant le transport des animaux. L'examen des statistiques de condamnation canadiennes, des enquêtes sur les animaux transportés à l'abattoir et des études de cas juridiques montrent que les lignes directrices et les règlements actuels n'assurent pas toujours que seuls les animaux aptes sont transportés. La considération des répercussions pathophysiologiques d'une mauvaise santé et d'une blessure sur la réponse de l'animal face aux défis physiques et physiologiques qui peuvent se produire durant le transport peut aider à identifier les répercussions sur le bien-être du transport des animaux fragilisés.

(Traduit par Isabelle Vallières)

Can Vet J 2019;60:423–429

Perspectives on transportation issues: The importance of having physically fit cattle and pigs

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ABSTRACT: One of the most important issues is starting with an animal that is fit for transport. It is impossible to assure good animal welfare during transport if the animal is unfit. Severely lame or weak, emaciated animals are not fit for transport. Recent figures on the incidence of nonambulatory cull dairy cows show that the problem has become worse since 1993. In beef cattle there has been a slight improvement. A major factor causing unfitness in some cows and pigs is over-selection for milk or meat production. Lameness may be increasing in some high-producing dairy cows and sows. Modern hybrid pigs, which have been selected for rapid growth, leanness, and a large loin area, are often prone to stress that causes the pig to become nonambulatory. Observations at packing plants indicate that in certain genetic lines the incidence of transit deaths and

“stressor” pigs has increased. Some of these pigs are so fragile that transport insurance is difficult to obtain. These pigs have a very excitable temperament, which makes loading and unloading a truck more difficult. Another problem area is transport of 1 d-old “bobby” Holstein calves before they can walk easily without assistance from a person. Good management is essential. Tired loading crews that become impatient or overloading of trucks may increase bruises and injuries. Careful driving and avoiding sudden stops and starts will reduce injuries due to animals falling down. Animal welfare during transport will be improved by transporting animals that are strong enough to withstand the rigors of transport. Animal fitness for transport can be improved by marketing cull breeding stock when they are still fit and using genetic selection for structural and physiological soundness.

Key Words: Cattle, Pigs, Transport, Welfare

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J. Anim. Sci. 79(E. Suppl.):E201–E207

Science says: YES

What does the 1/2005 Regulation say?



1. No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.
2. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:
 - (a) they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
 - (b) they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
 - (c) they are pregnant females for whom 90 % or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
 - (d) they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed;
 - (e) they are pigs of less than three weeks, lambs of less than one week and calves of less than ten days of age, unless they are transported less than 100 km;
 - (f) they are dogs and cats of less than eight weeks of age, unless they are accompanied by their mother;
 - (g) they are cervine animals in velvet.

Is any of this relevant for slaughter pigs?

What does the 1/2005 Regulation say?

FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

1. No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.



Photo by S-L. Schild

Is this pig unfit for transport?

- Not according to the 5 points
- But – is it injured? Will it suffer?
- What would inspectors do?

What do we know about hernia?

- Hernia has at least 7 underlying conditions, probably with varying consequences for animal welfare
- Difficult to i determine ante mortem
- Hernias are considered as serious if it is more than 15-20 cm wide and especially if it presents sores
- Pigs with hernia show different behaviour than healthy pigs when mixed (Schild et al., 2015)
- During mixing-induced fighting, pigs attack/bite the hernia sack of other individuals (Schild et al., 2015)

Research in Veterinary Science 101 (2015) 126–131



Do umbilical outpouchings affect the behaviour or clinical condition of pigs during 6 h housing in a pre-transport pick-up facility?



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Photo by S-L. Schild






Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Pigs

<http://www.animaltransportguides.eu/notizie/practical-eu-guidelines-assess-fitness-pigs-transport/>

Easy to understand – even if you don't speak/read English

Mainly slaughter pigs – but can also be inspiration for sows and piglets



Illustration	Description	Decision
 ©Anprogapor	The hernia is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smaller than 15-20 cm (weight depending), • with no sores/lesions. The pig's overall well-being is unaffected.	Fit for transport 
 ©Videncenter for Svineproduktion	This umbilical hernia is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • larger than 15-20 cm (weight depending), • with no sores/lesions. The pig's overall wellbeing could be affected.	 <u>Fit for transport under conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pig to be isolated. • Pig tagged with a coloured mark. • FCI to be completed • Transport not to cause unnecessary pain or suffering. • The animal to be loaded last.
	The hernia is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • larger than 15-20 cm (weight depending) 	Unfit for transport

FCI = Food chain information form

Yes

– there could be other conditions – discuss and share with inspectors

Bitten tails?

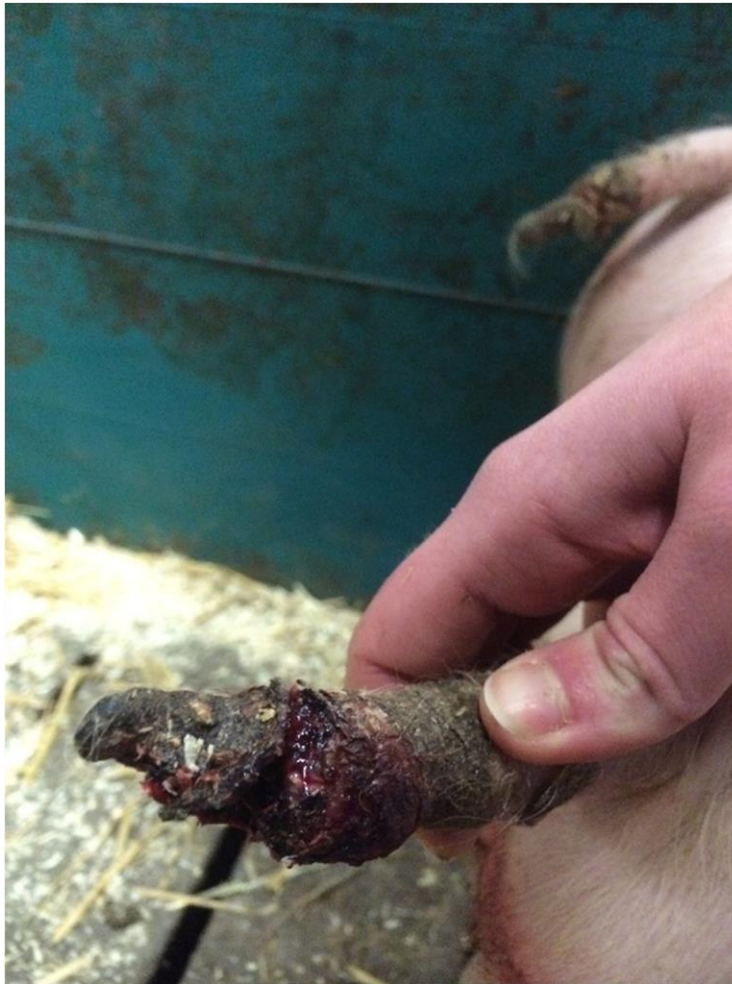


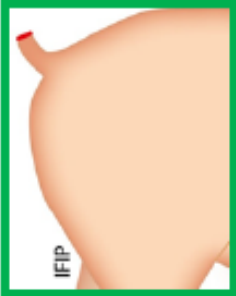

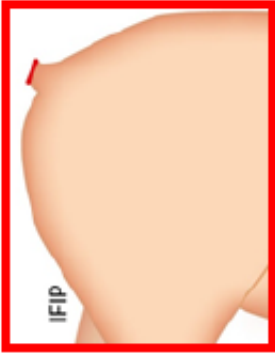



Photo by M. L. Larsen



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 <p>©Friedhelm Jaeger/ Sarah Puetz</p>	0	No evidence of tail biting	<p>Fit for transport</p> 
 <p>IFIP ©IFIP</p>	2	Evidence of chewing or puncture wounds, no swelling	 <p><u>Fit for transport under conditions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pig to be isolated. • Pig tagged with a coloured mark. • FCI to be completed • Transport not to cause unnecessary pain or suffering. • The animal to be loaded last.
 <p>IFIP ©IFIP</p>	3	Evidence of chewing or puncture wounds, with swelling and signs of infection	<p>Unfit for transport</p>  <p><u>Major Health Issue:</u></p> <p>The pig must be isolated and treated according to veterinary advice.</p>




- Scientists agree: fitness for transport is very important for animal welfare
- The current legislation only specifies few conditions
- As veterinarians we know that there may be other conditions that increase the risk of 'getting injured' or 'unnecessary suffering' during transport
- Check the 2015 guidelines from the EU-project
- If you wish to improve animal welfare – check pigs at your locations, communicate with inspectors (they may see stuff, even though it is not violating 1/2005)

Any questions?

Comments?

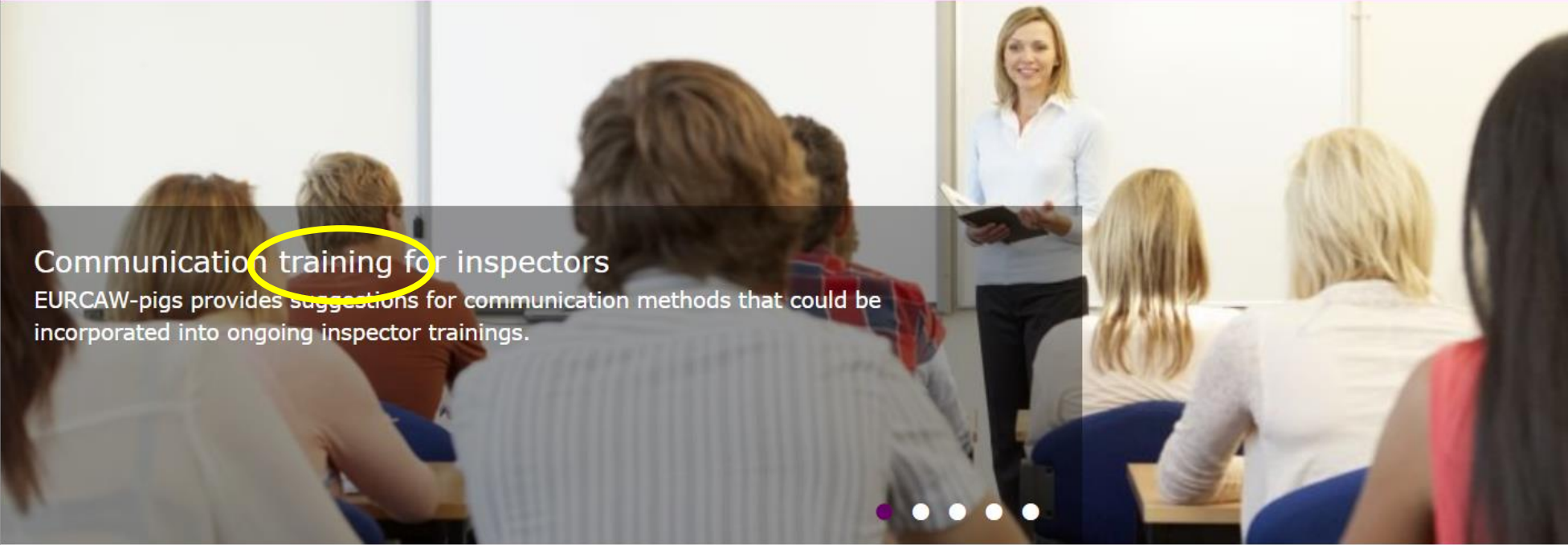
Stuff to discuss?



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Communication training for inspectors
EURCAW-pigs provides suggestions for communication methods that could be incorporated into ongoing inspector trainings.

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



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Research in Veterinary Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rvsc



Lameness scoring and assessment of fitness for transport in dairy cows: Agreement among and between farmers, veterinarians and livestock drivers



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- 30 videos with walking cows
- Walking normally -> obviously lame
- Is this cow fit for 8h transport?
- Agreement at best moderate

Can be used for training of inspectors –
and even online 😊

Science says: YES





Thank you for
the attention

Don't forget to
ask EURCAW



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