

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 2019-2020. 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: Tail biting and tail docking

Learning goals:

After the course, the participants will have gained:

- Knowledge about the intention of the EU-legislation (Protection of animals kept for farming purposes, Minimum standards for protection of pigs, Minimum standards for the protection of pigs as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking)
- Updated knowledge about the biology and behavioural needs of pigs in relation to exploratory behaviour, foraging behaviour, social behaviour and abnormal behaviours and needs related to supply of water and feed as well as climate and pen environment.
- Knowledge about the six key factors identified as risk factors for tail biting: Enrichment materials, climate, health status, competition over resources, diet and pen structure/cleanliness
- Knowledge about indicators to assess tail biting and to assess the risks for tail biting covering the six key risk-factor areas.
- Tools for calibration and practical training in calibration using the indicators.
- Guidelines for an aligned selection of pens/ pigs for inspection under different conditions.
- Knowledge on measures to improve welfare within the six risk areas and indicators to assess improvements
- Knowledge about challenges in relation to communication with farmers during inspection

Suggested programme and suggested training material for training course Tail biting and tail docking

Suggested programme	Suggested course materials
<p>9:00-9:30 Welcome</p> <p>Welcome, participants present themselves. Presentation of learning goals by course leader.</p> <p>9:30- 11:00 Presentation by expert</p> <p>Pig behaviour in relation to foraging, drinking, exploration, social interaction and development of abnormal behaviours– what do we know?</p> <p><i>Plenum Discussion/ Questions</i></p>	<p>EURCAW-pigs website (Link)</p> <p>Preparation: Read: Commission Staff Working Document on best practices with a view to the prevention of routine tail-docking and the provision of enrichment materials to pigs, EC, 2016 (Link)</p> <p>Preparation: Read: Knowledge, EURCAW-Pigs dossier on tail biting and tail docking (Link)</p>
<p>11:00-11:15 Coffee break</p>	
<p>11.15-13.00 Presentation by expert</p> <p>What are the six key risk areas for tail biting based on scientific knowledge on pigs’ physiological and behavioural needs?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enrichment materials 2. Climate 3. Health status 4. Competition over resources 5. Diet 6. Pen structure and cleanliness <p><i>Plenum Discussion/ Questions</i></p>	<p>Cutting the need for tail docking, leaflet European Commission, available in 8 languages (EC, No date) (Link)</p> <p>Commission Staff Working Document on best practices with a view to the prevention of routine tail-docking and the provision of enrichment materials to pigs, EC, 2016 (Link)</p>
<p>13:00-14:00 Lunch</p>	
<p>14:00- 16:00 Presentation by expert</p> <p>EU legislation related to the six key risk areas and suggested indicators to measure compliance and improvements.</p> <p>Examples of best practices within the six key areas</p>	<p>Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes lays down the basic principle that pigs should be offered an adequate level of welfare (Link)</p>

<p><i>Plenum discussion/ Questions</i></p>	<p>Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs (Link)</p> <p>Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336 describes measures to reduce the need for tail-docking (Link)</p> <p>Indicator factsheets on tail biting and tail docking (Link)</p> <p>Welfare indicators, EURCAW-Pigs dossier on tail biting and tail docking (Link)</p>
<p>16:00-16:15 Coffee break</p>	
<p>16:15-17:00 Group discussion with calibration exercises related to selected risk areas</p> <p>1. Photos shown of enrichment materials– different types and different amounts found during inspection. Discussion among participants – which photos suggest compliance with legislation and in relation to meeting behavioural needs of the pigs?</p> <p>2. Photos shown of pigs with tail bites and docked tails of different appearance. Discussion among participants – was docking performed according to legal requirements and how should this pig be housed (or euthanized) in order to comply with legislation?</p>	
<p>17:00-19:00 Break and evening meal</p>	
<p>19:00-21:00 Evening session on communication</p> <p>What are the challenges for inspectors to communicate with for instance farmers/farm workers? Experiences from inspectors on how good or bad communication has affected the inspections. Is change a possibility during inspection?</p> <p><i>Group work and Discussion</i></p> <p>Course wrap up and evaluation</p>	<p>Preparation: Read: Farmers, inspectors and animal welfare: possibilities for change: A Review, EURCAW-Pigs, 2020 (Link)</p> <p>Improving communication – relevant tools and resources, EURCAW-Pigs, 2020 (Link)</p> <p>The experience of animal welfare inspections as perceived by Danish livestock farmers: A qualitative research approach, Anneberg et al., 2012 (Link)</p>