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## What do prolapses indicate?

- A prolapse describes a condition, where an organ is protruding from the body.
- In pigs prolapses of rectal or uterine tissues are relevant, but usually occur sporadically.
- Prolapse of the rectum may indicate stress due to cold and/or transport or enteric disorders.
- Prolapse of the uterus mostly occurs in sows close to parturition and followed by prolapse of the rectum.
- Prolapsed organs can be easily damaged causing pain and profuse bleeding, why those pigs are unfit for transport.



{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 4.}: separation, veterinary treatment and/or killing of animals falling ill or being injured during transport.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 5.}: use of sedatives.



*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 the review "[Fitness for Transport](#)".*

## Legal requirements



Council Regulation (EC) **1/2005**: Requirements associated with prolapses:

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 1.}: only fit animals shall be transported.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 2.b}: unfit animals present severe open wounds, or prolapse.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 3.a}: no additional suffering for slightly injured or ill animals.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 3.b.}: transportation as part of a research programme.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 3.c}: transportation under veterinary supervision for treatment or diagnosis.

## Inspection method (recommended)

- In case the planned journey is less than 8h, farmer and livestock driver have to assess fitness for transport before and during loading.
- In case the journey is more than 8 h, an inspector additionally has to be present at loading to assess fitness for transport of pigs.
- In any case, pigs will be assessed for **prolapses**.
- Inspector reports findings to the farmer and/or livestock driver, and in case of discrepancies between legal requirements and situation during loading and transport corrective actions are taken to ensure the situation complies with legal requirements in the future.

Assess all pigs for rectal and/or uterine prolapse:

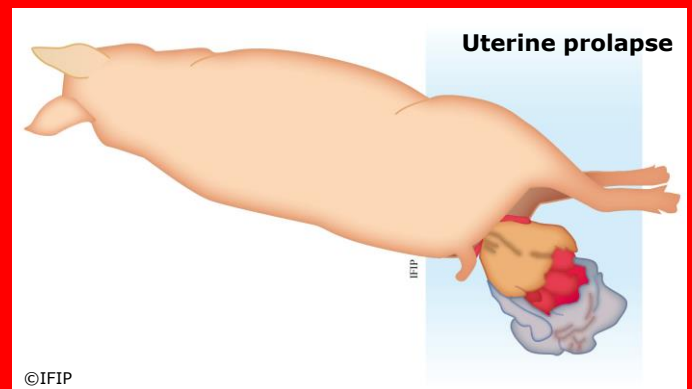
- A rectal prolapse is when internal tissue extrudes from the rectum. Note that the first visible sign of a rectal prolapse is often blood on the faeces.
- A uterine prolapse is defined as when the uterus or a part of the uterus extrudes from the vagina.

As a prolapse is either present or absent, score the pigs presenting this problem. The animals should be examined from the rear, checking for the presence of swelling or extrusion of tissue from the rectum. If an animal show signs of prolapses it is unfit for transport.

## No evidence of prolapse



## Evidence of prolapse



Source scoring method: summarized from Welfare Quality® Protocol and Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Pigs



EU Reference Centre  
for Animal Welfare *Pigs*

For any questions or suggestions regarding this factsheet please contact [info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto:info.pigs@eurcaw.eu)